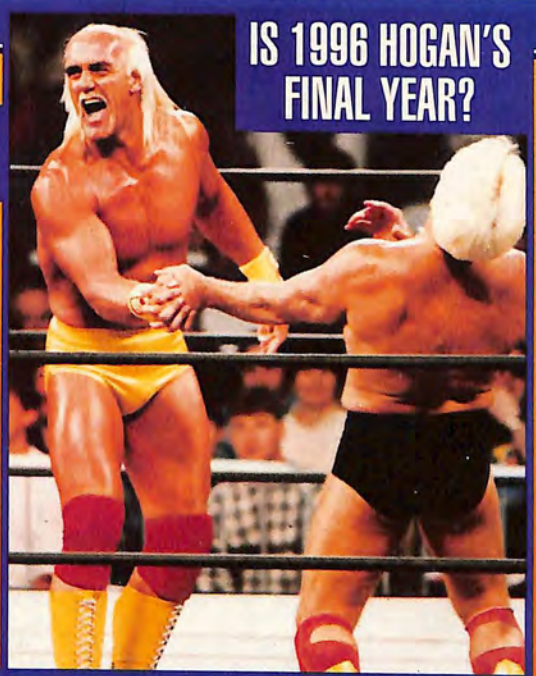
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

COLLECTOR'S ISSUE! 88-PAGE SPECIAL

PRO Wrestling® ILLUSTRATED

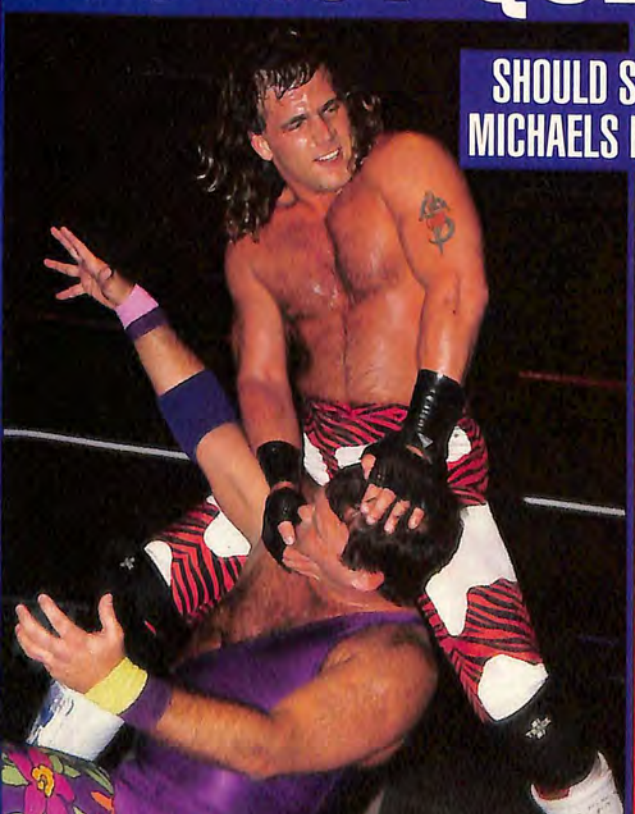


IS 1996 HOGAN'S FINAL YEAR?

BONUS SECTION!

THE 1996 PWI POLL

50 HOT QUESTIONS!



SHOULD SHAWN MICHAELS RETIRE?

WHO IS WRESTLING'S SEXIEST WOMAN?

WHO *REALLY* RULES MONDAY NIGHTS?

WHAT IS WRESTLING'S BEST MANEUVER?

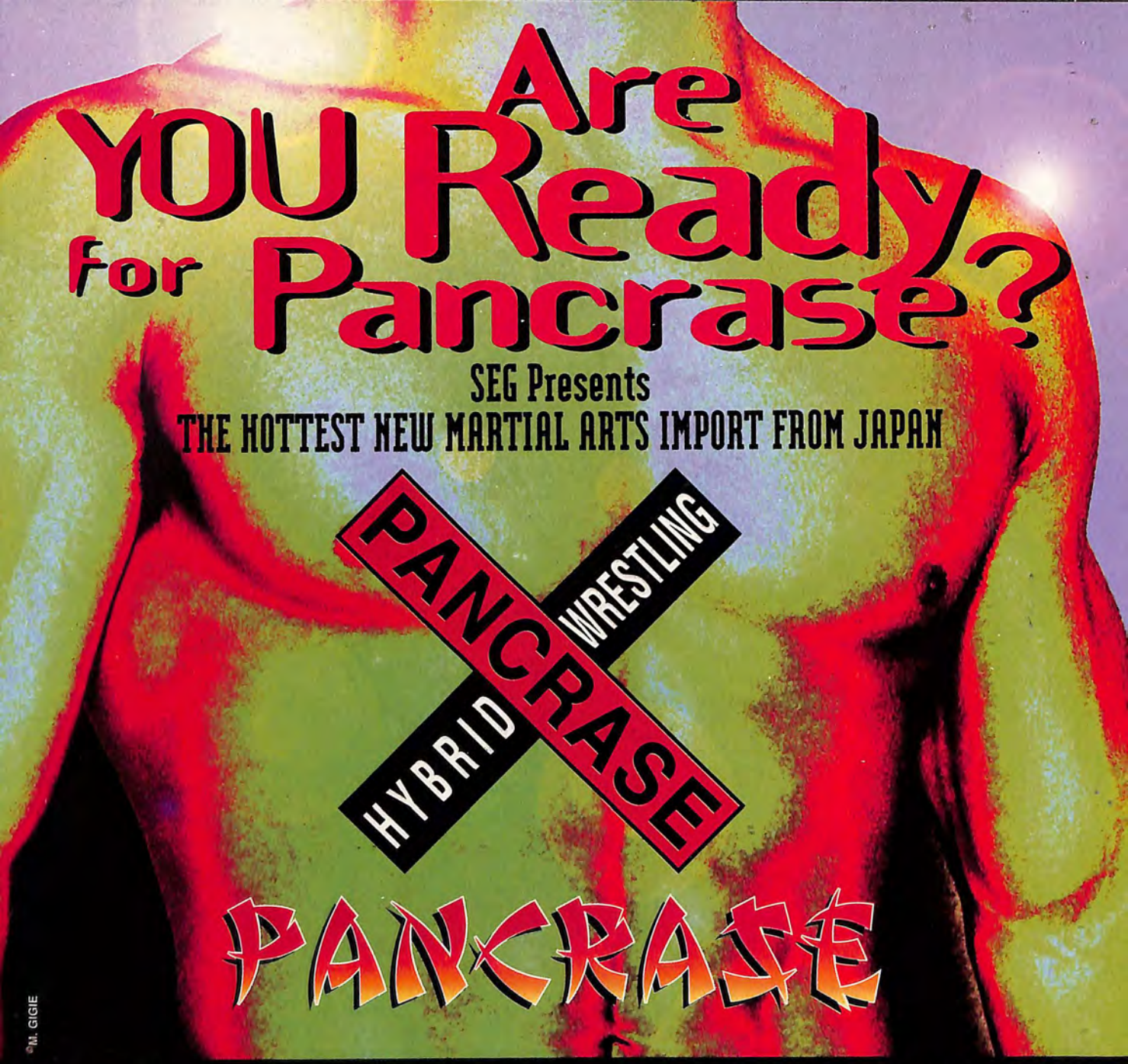
WHO IS WRESTLING'S WILDEST DAREDEVIL?

$3.50 U.S. $4.50 CANADA £2.65 U.K.

06

0 72246 00388 6

June 1996



LIGHTNING-FAST KICKS, OVER-THE-TOP TAKEDOWNS AND DEVASTATING SUBMISSION HOLDS

Throw DOWN with Pancrase!

Saturday April 13

Only on Pay PER view

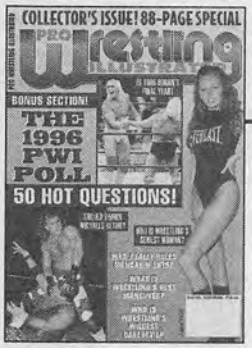
Call your local cable operator or satellite provider for ordering details

SEG
SEMAPHORE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

©1996

JUNE 1996

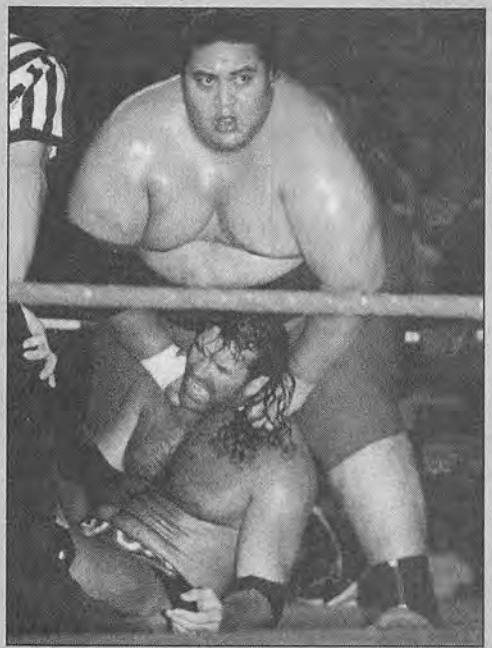
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



COVER DESIGN:
Tina Filice

PAGE 18

PAGE 35



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE APRIL 23, 1996

FEATURES

18 THE 1996 *PWI* POLL: WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED
For the fourth straight year, we've turned to some of the sport's most knowledgeable experts and asked for their thoughts on some of wrestling's most intriguing issues

35 LOOK OUT—YOKOZUNA'S READY TO EXPLODE!
The sumo warrior is now on his own as a fan favorite. Who's going to feel this 589-pound behemoth's wrath? Probably Jim Cornette, for one

38 PRESS CONFERENCE: TAMMY "SUNNY" FYTCH
The WWF's most talked-about manager talks about her new Bodydonnas, her own rising career, and so much more

40 SAY WHAT YOU WANT, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: HULK HOGAN IS A WINNER!
He wins world titles in two federations and gets criticized. He slays giants and gets criticized. Okay, so he's not perfect, but the "Hulkster" is pretty darn good

44 ROCKY PAST, UNCERTAIN FUTURE: STING AND LUGER'S FATAL ATTRACTION
They've feuded before and made up—several times, in fact. Now they're friends and teammates again, but how long will it last this time? Not long, we're afraid

48 *PWI* INVESTIGATION REVEALS: OWEN OFFERS FAMILY BOUNTY ON BRET!
He hoped his brothers would join his side if he offered them money to put Bret on the sidelines. But only one family member took him up on his offer, and he's a real "dog"

55 THE WWF-WCW WAR! REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINES
"Billionaire Ted" ... "The Huckster" ... name-calling ... trash-talking ... Monday night ratings wars ... it's getting ugly out there!

DEPARTMENTS

4 BETWEEN FALLS
Appalled By Act; New Standard Of Hypocrisy; Curb The Violence

6 RINGSIDE with Bill Apter
All the hottest wrestling news and gossip

8 FROM THE DESK OF ... Stuart M. Saks
How long can wrestling's lightweights take the pounding?

10 IN FOCUS by Craig Peters
PWI hits the Internet ... check it out!

12 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Andy Rodriguez
Time to make some changes in the Royal Rumble

14 THE STEEL CAGE by Chris Bernucca
Tragedy strikes the amateur wrestling world

16 OFF THE TOP ROPE with Eddie Ellner
Our most controversial columnist dips into his mailbag

51 *PWI* CLOSE-UP: JEFF JARRETT
Everything you need to know about "Double-J"

60 ARENA REPORTS
Key match results from around the globe

78 SCOUTING REPORT
Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of five top stars

80 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
The mat sport's most respected rankings

82 RATINGS ANALYSIS
Who's in and who's out of the top 10

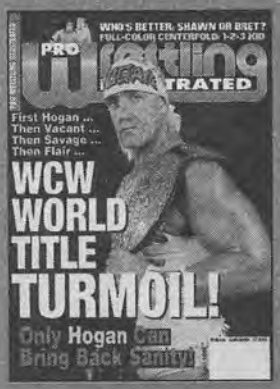
84 WRESTLING ENQUIRER
Late-breaking news from around the wrestling world

86 HOT SHOT
Horace Boulder turns the table on Jason the Terrible in Japan

between falls

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED welcomes readers' comments on any of our stories or columns.
Send letters to:
BETWEEN FALLS
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034
Letters preceded by a ☎ indicate letters left by fans on the *PWI* Hotline (1-900-884-4PWI; see ad elsewhere in this issue).

CHAMPIONSHIP CHAOS



Just about every competitor in WCW has his eyes on the WCW World title belt, but during the last few months of 1995, Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage couldn't stop bickering about who was the rightful owner of the belt. But while they were squabbling, Ric Flair snatched the belt from Savage at Starrcade 1995. Our readers seemed about as stunned as Hogan and Savage were to see the "Nature Boy" wearing the belt again.

"Ric Flair just snuck in and took the belt while no one was looking," said "*PWI* Hotline" caller Mike Fletcher of Hastings, Nebraska. "Savage and Hogan were too busy worrying about each other. There's no excuse for that. Savage deserved to lose."

"Randy Savage didn't spend enough time preparing for Starrcade," wrote Mark Waiksnoris of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. "He needs to rethink his friendship with Hogan—and he better be more careful in his second reign as WCW champ!"

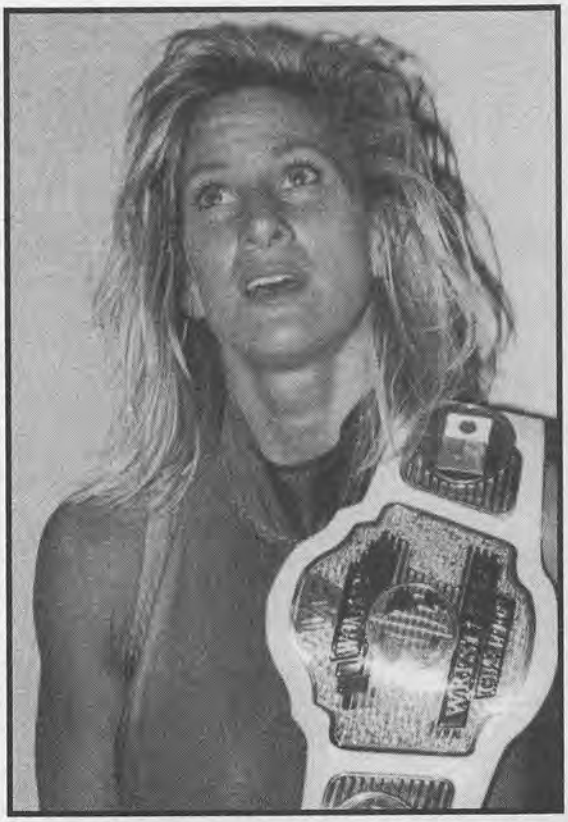
"Savage was robbed!" wrote Adam Hepburn of Hollywood, Florida. "Flair needed his Horsemen buddies to help him win the belt. That title reign meant nothing."

MAD AT MADUSA

I have been an avid fan of both the WWF and WCW for years. I've seen both sides pull some pretty low stunts, but I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw Madusa "Alundra Blayze" Miceli throw the WWF World Women's belt in a trash can on *WCW Monday Nitro* in December.

I've enjoyed the harmless swipes both federations have taken at each other in the past, but this was below the belt, and as far as I'm concerned, it backfired. Rather than sway me from watching the WWF, what Madusa did made me refuse to watch another WCW program.

PAUL STEVENSON
Ayrshire, Scotland



Alundra Blayze (a.k.a. Madusa) used to wear and defend the WWF World Women's belt with pride, but she literally trashed it upon her return to WCW. Many readers thought it showed a lack of class.

Madusa makes me sick! The WWF Women's champion made a surprise visit to *WCW Monday Nitro* and threw the WWF belt in the trash. With that one act, Madusa disrespected all the other great wrestlers who have proudly worn the WWF Women's gold. If Madusa wanted to leave the WWF, she should have done so without pulling this.

And I believe she would have been better off staying in the WWF, since the women's division was finally getting some recognition again. Just how long will the WCW women's division last this time? Probably no longer than six months. Smarten up, Madusa! You will eventually regret selling out. After all, the WWF World Women's title is the most prestigious women's title in the U.S.

THOMAS WARD
Corona, CA

McMAHON'S SOUR GRAPES

These "Billionaire Ted's 'Rasslin' War Room" skits, the latest examples of Vince McMahon's thin sense of sportsmanship in the face of the almighty dollar, are reprehensible. I wish I could remind McMahon in person that a little more than a year ago on *WWF Monday Night Raw*, he was personally wishing "Macho Man" Randy Savage the very best in his new endeavors after his tenure as a WWF broadcaster had ended. What a difference a year makes! Now he degrades Savage by creating a "Nacho Man" lookalike in those "Billionaire Ted" skits.

McMahon is probably also hoping new WWF fans are so young they don't remember

When Randy Savage was a WWF broadcaster, Vince McMahon was full of praise for him. That has changed in the last year, and reader Theodore Michaels thinks that's appalling.

that Hulk Hogan virtually saved professional wrestling in the 1980s, and that "Mean" Gene Okerlund was one of Vince's first co-announcer stooges. Yes, these men are now past their prime, but is degradation called for? Did these men really hurt McMahon that much by going where there was still room for them? McMahon has set new standards for hypocrisy.

Is veteran Jerry Lawler part of the "New Generation"? Unless "The King" makes his waltz with McMahon the last dance of his career, you can bet it will end with a knife in his back as well.

THEODORE MICHAELS
Washington, DC

CURB THE VIOLENCE

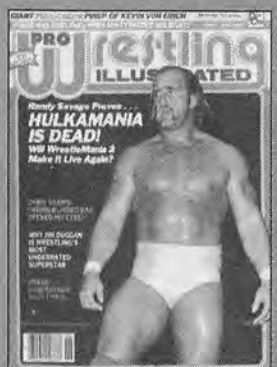
I may be a devoted fan of Extreme Championship Wrestling, but I agree with Andy Rodriguez that the promoters and wrestlers there need to tone down the violence ("Win, Lose, Or Draw," March 1996). I don't think ECW would lose fans by doing so. It's not necessarily all the violence that attracts everyone to ECW anyway. Some fans, including me, just love the no-nonsense action, terrific feuds, great talent roster, and hilarious, honest interviews. I'm just as content watching Rey Misterio Jr. wrestle Psicosis as I am watching Tommy Dreamer and Raven pummel each other with frying pans.

As long as there are no clowns, race car drivers, wrestlers selling beef jerky, or Steve McMichael in the ECW, they will always be number one to me. The only thing they need to do is begin to enforce standard wrestling rules better.

JENNY MILLER
Stony Point, NY

(Continued on page 68)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the June 1986 issue featured Randy Savage and his claim that "'Hulkamania' is dead!" Inside the magazine, *PWI* looked at what made Hulk Hogan great in the first place and concluded that maybe Savage was right. Hogan may not be as popular now as he was at the time of WrestleMania I, but "Hulkamania" is far from dead—even in 1996!

Elsewhere in the magazine: Kevin Von Erich was spotlighted in the centerfold ... We presented an argument as to "Why Jim Duggan Is Wrestling's Most Underrated Superstar" ... Chris Adams had been temporarily blinded by former partner Gino Hernandez when Hernandez threw a caustic black liquid into Adams' eyes. From his home in England, Adams revealed how "Being Blinded Has Opened My Eyes!" ... Scott Hall (a.k.a Razor Ramon) discussed why he donated the $100,000 he won in a Minneapolis battle royal to charity in "Press Conference."

Magazine availability: Sold out.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER
Stuart M. Saks

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Craig Peters

SENIOR EDITOR
Bill Apter

MANAGING EDITOR
David Lenker

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Brandi Mankiewicz

CREATIVE ART DIRECTOR
Tina Filice

ART DIRECTORS
Kim Branson
Alex Krasnopolsky
Joseph Kalman
Lisa Ryan
Wendy Vetter

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Bob Eddy

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES
Cliff Campo
Bernard V. Thompson III
Ron Frankhouser
Stephen DiAddezio

SENIOR WRITERS
David Rosenbaum
Andy Rodriguez
Chris Bernucca
Eddie Ellner
Bryan Ethier
Steve Anderson

PHOTO EDITOR
Jason Ross Lavin

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING
David Gerhardt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Joe Pomaco
(215) 643-6385

CUSTOMER SERVICES
P.O. Box 96, Dept. CS
Fort Washington, PA 19034

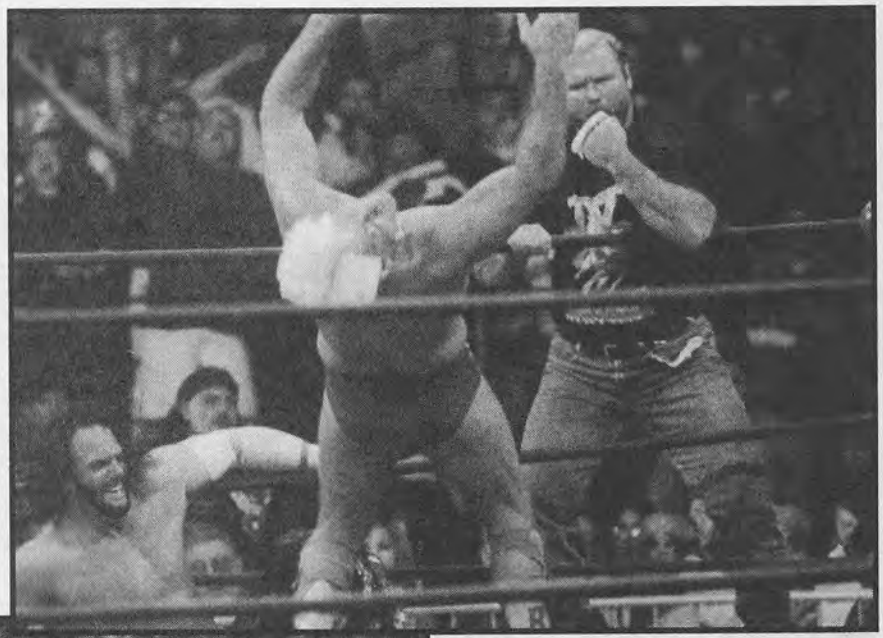
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, June 1996, (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 910, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price $3.50 ($4.50 in Canada, £2.65 in U.K.). Subscription price $32.80 for 13 issues in the U.S., $43.20 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES:** (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

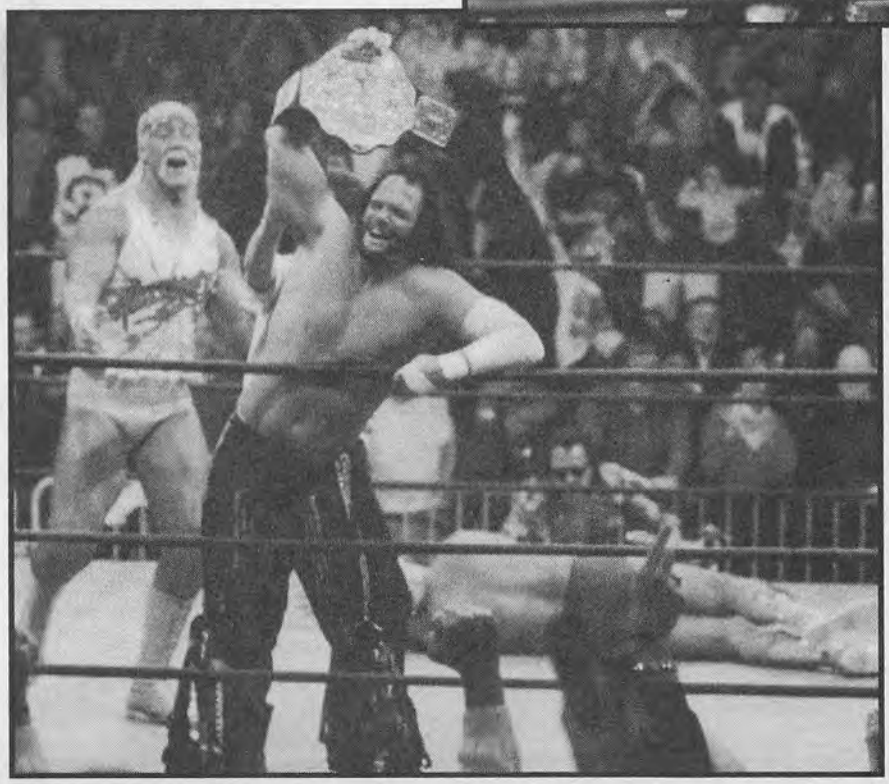
Printed in U.S.A.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

RIC FLAIR, I'M told, was ready to put a Horsemen hit out on his closest friend, **Arn Anderson**, after Anderson's interference backfired and caused Flair to lose the WCW World title to **Randy Savage** on January 22. That's right, he was actually going to try to get one of the other two Horsemen to injure Arn! But before Flair could put any plan into action, Anderson redeemed himself by again interfering on the "Nature Boy's" behalf, this time in a Flair-**Hulk Hogan** match on January 29. That time, Arn's interference *helped*, and Flair gained a pinfall victory.



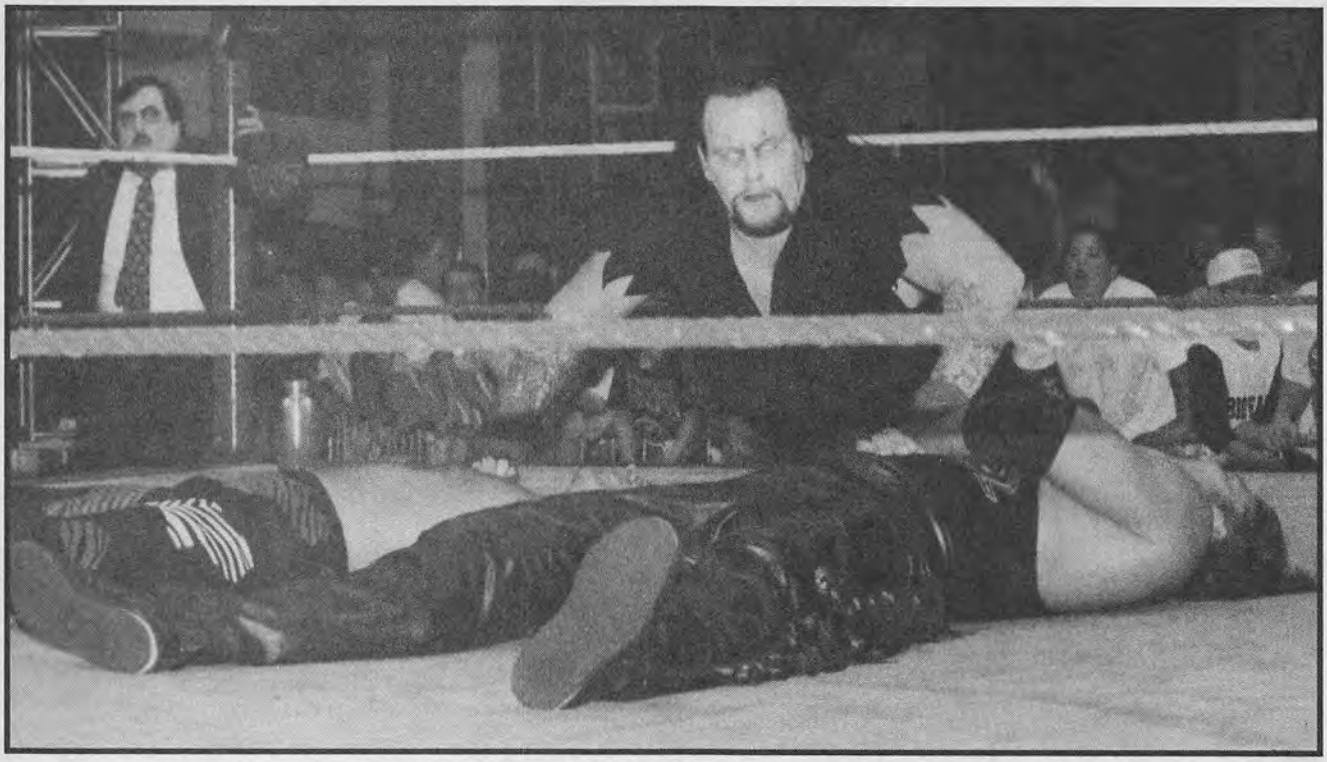


Mainly because Arn Anderson accidentally hit Ric Flair with brass knuckles (above), Randy Savage became a two-time WCW World champion on January 22 (left). Arn made up for his mistake by helping Flair pin Hulk Hogan a week later.

Here's how it happened: **Elizabeth** was in Hogan's corner for the match. **Jimmy Hart** grabbed her, allowing Anderson to pull off one of her high-heeled shoes. Hart distracted referee **Nick Patrick**, Anderson tossed the shoe to Flair, and the "Nature Boy" spiked Hogan's eye with it two times. The victory marks the first time Flair has ever beaten Hogan by pinfall, and that includes all their matches in WCW *and* the WWF.

With **Roddy Piper** serving as acting WWF president, you just know things are going to get very interesting in the next few months. I hope "Rowdy" Roddy is able to remain objective when disputes come up and when he has to make difficult decisions. We all know he is a very opinionated man with a very nasty temper.

"I am putting the WWF on notice," Piper told me in a recent telephone interview. "If some guys get out of hand, I have no fear of getting into those good ol' trunks of



This is what The Undertaker hopes to do again soon—lay out Shawn Michaels and Diesel. A bizarre fan favorite feud—with Diesel and Michaels on one side, and Undertaker and Bret Hart on the other—is developing in the WWF.

mine again and taking care of business. 'Hot Rod' is just as tough as ever. Man, if **Vader** attacked *me*, I woulda slaughtered him on the spot. I still might."

That's not the kind of talk you want to hear from a high-ranking company executive.

A WWF fan favorite war is raging out of hand, and I think it's all **Diesel's** fault. After losing a steel cage match to World champion **Bret Hart** at Madison Square Garden in January, Diesel grabbed Bret's belt before "The Hitman" could retrieve it. A few seconds later, it was announced that, in a show of good sportsmanship, Diesel was going to give the belt back to Bret and shake his hand.

This is how Jacques Rougeau and Jean-Pierre Lafitte (then just Pierre) looked when they were The Quebecers in the WWF. They'll probably look a bit different when you next see them in WCW.

To everyone's surprise, "Big Daddy Cool" lost his cool and smashed Bret with the belt, then tossed him back into the ring, where he viciously stomped him. Seconds later, **The Undertaker** ran into the cage in Bret's defense. Then **Shawn Michaels** ran in to assist Diesel. Referees and officials had to pull the four men apart. A series of tag team matches pitting Diesel and Shawn against Undertaker and Bret has since been signed.

Jacques Rougeau and **Jean-Pierre Lafitte** (probably under different names) are expected to begin wrestling soon in WCW.

The WCW U.S. heavyweight

(Continued on page 66)

from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

From "Scouting Reports," page 78:

1-2-3 Kid

Weakness: Ultra-reckless. Devil-may-care attitude has resulted in too many injuries at a young age.

Rey Misterio Jr.

Weakness: Vulnerable. No one knows just how long a 5'3", 140-pounder can last in this sport.

***

Enjoy these guys while you can, folks. They probably won't be around long.

"There's a different sound when a guy who weighs 140 pounds hits the mat than when a guy 240 pounds does," said Jason Ross Lavin, who as a *PWI* photographer, gets closer to the action than anyone except the wrestlers and the referee. "When Rey Misterio lands, it's like a thwack; when a legitimate heavyweight lands, it's more of a thud."

That might not be the most scientific description, but it is quite revealing nonetheless. The difference between "thwack" and "thud" could very well spell the difference between a long, healthy career and a short career followed by painful retirement.

Personally, I would prefer to watch the Rey Misterios and 1-2-3 Kids of the world to lumbering or even not-so-lumbering heavyweights. As a fan of the sport for most of my 40 years, I want to see wrestlers who can show me things in the ring I have never before seen. These gentlemen have a creative instinct and the athletic ability to perform feats that men of 250 pounds, encumbered by the laws of physics, cannot. I can appreciate a great clash of super heavyweights, but how often do such matches come along? I have never walked away from a Misterio match without my mouth hanging open.

But what is the price these little lads are paying for my entertainment? Misterio and 1-2-3 Kid combined weigh less than Diesel. What will be the ultimate effect of these lightweights waging war with men who are sometimes twice their size?

The answer at this stage is this: Nobody knows.

(Continued on page 70)

COMBINE & SAVE

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 30% off the regular newsstand price!

COMBINE & SAVE

Magazines	ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign	TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 25%!)*						
☐ New ☐ Renewal THE WRESTLER / INSIDE WRESTLING	26 (13 each title)	☐ $54.75	☐ $75.55 ($119.75 airmail)	52 (26 each title)	☐ $109.50	☐ $151.10 ($239.50 airmail)
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 30%!)*						
☐ New ☐ Renewal PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED / THE WRESTLER / INSIDE WRESTLING	39 (13 each title)	☐ $79.80	☐ $107.10 ($177.30 airmail)	78 (26 each title)	☐ $159.60	☐ $214.20 ($354.60 airmail)

☑ **YES!** Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date: ____ / ____ (MO / YR)

Card No.: _____

Signature: _____

Send To: LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

3808/06-95

in focus

By Craig Peters

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED ON LINE ON AOL

Cybersurfing wrestling fans unite—especially if you subscribe to America Online! Because there's an AOL location for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED where you can post messages, have your comments funneled to our offices, and receive feedback from *PWI* staffers!

If you don't have a computer, you probably might as well turn the page. But if you do, and you subscribe to AOL, you'll want to access the *PWI* Online folder of the Wrestling Rap section of Grandstand's Squared Circle area.

Huh?

Well, that probably all sounded like nonsense if you don't have a computer, and maybe even if you do. But if you do have AOL and want a step-by-step guide for accessing "*PWI* Online," read on:

(1) From AOL's main menu, click on Sports.

(2) From the Sports menu, click on The Grandstand (it's usually the bottom right icon on the left side of the screen).

(3) In the Grandstand menu, scroll down to and click on the Squared Circle (wrestling and boxing) listing.

(4) From the Squared Circle menu, click on the Grandstand Wrestling Area listing.

(5) In the Grandstand Wrestling Area menu, click on Wrestling Rap Messages.

(6) Now that you're in Wrestling Rap, click on the icon that says either "browse folders" (if you're a PC user) or "list topics" (if you have a Mac).

(7) In the list of topics you see, scroll down until you find a listing for *PWI* Online. Click there, and you'll have access to messages from fans from coast-to-coast about a wide variety of topics. You can write and leave messages for other fans to read, and the message you write today may elicit feedback from fans tomorrow, and they may comment on it for others to read, too.

At least a couple of times per week, I'll check into *PWI* Online to read the messages, post some messages, answer questions, and make printouts of comments that I feel are worthy of being circulated around the office. Senior Writer Steve

Anderson checks in pretty often, too, and look for Stu Saks and Bill Apter to make appearances there in the not-too-distant future.

I've only been on the area for a few weeks as I write this, but already we've had a couple of good suggestions for special issues, I've answered a bunch of questions about the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Almanac* (AOL subscribers tapping into *PWI* Online found out first about the delay in the *Almanac's* on-sale date), and some interesting discussion has been taking place about *PWI's* coverage of wrestling overseas.

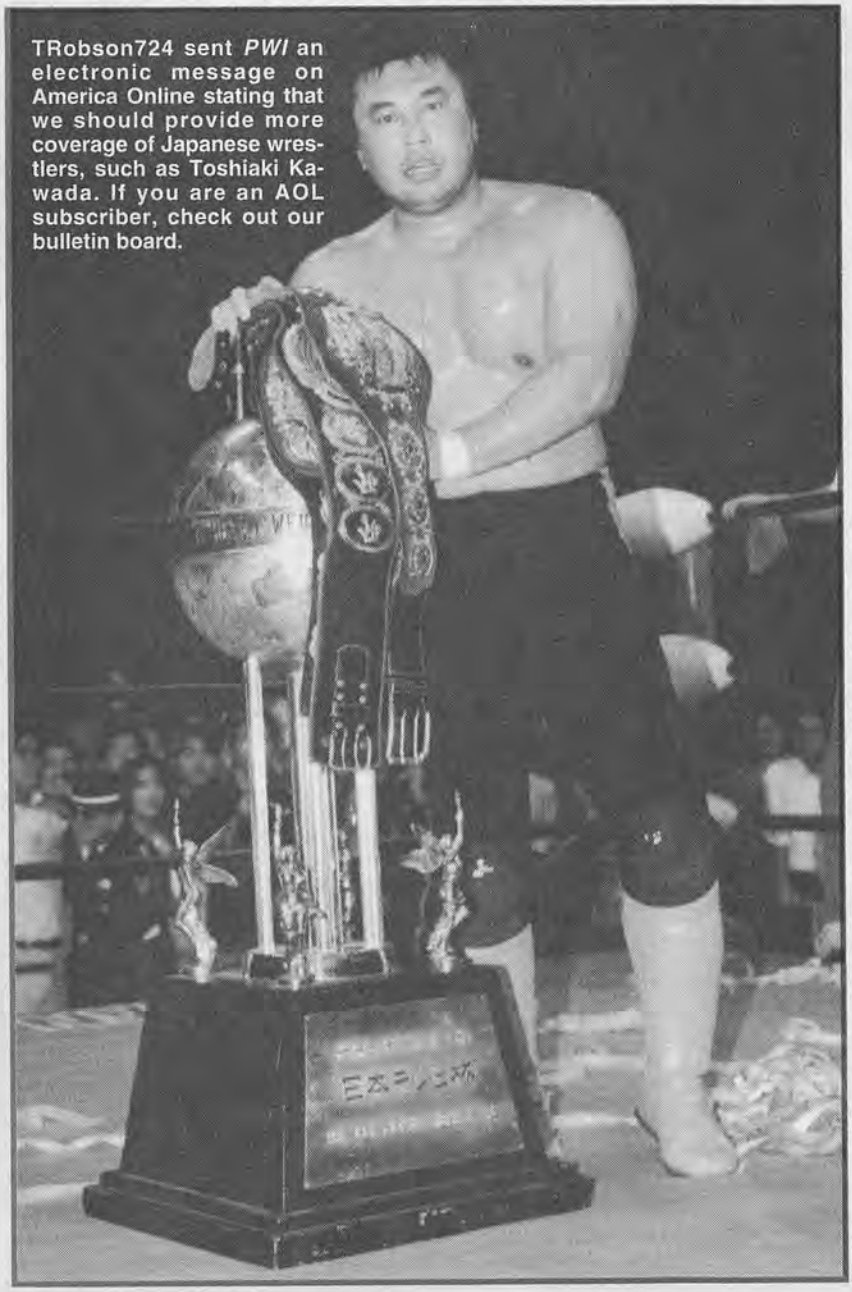
A sample:

"I wish *PWI* would try to educate its readers more on foreign talent," writes DGordon392. "I must compliment you for including so much foreign talent in the '500' this year, but I think if you ranked the Japanese talent more realistically, you would create a lot more interest in Japanese wrestling. Maybe you could start a *PWI* award for best foreign wrestler each year. I feel it's a shame that a lot of people think there is nothing more to wrestling than WCW and WWF."

I explained in a separate posting that feature stories on Japanese wrestlers usually aren't done unless that wrestler receives some major exposure on American television or accomplishes something that requires significant attention, such as Antonio Inoki's current streak of wins over top U.S. talent.

Yes, there are fans who follow the Japanese scene very closely, but I asked rhetorically: "Does the average fan in the street know Akira Maeda?" To which TRobson724 replied, "No, but they would if you talked about him in your magazine. I didn't know about Antonio Inoki, Mitsuharu Misawa, Toshiaki Kawada, etc., until I read about them in *PWI*."

So fire up those computers, fans, and join the conversation! See you online!



TRobson724 sent *PWI* an electronic message on America Online stating that we should provide more coverage of Japanese wrestlers, such as Toshiaki Kawada. If you are an AOL subscriber, check out our bulletin board.

KILLER INSTINCT!

Back in the February 1996 issue of *PWI*, we held a contest that asked readers to submit essays of 50 words or less discussing the wrestler with the most killer instinct.

Clifford D. Pine of Owls Head, New York, is the grand prize winner in that contest, and he wins a Super NES system, a *Killer Instinct* Super NES cartridge, a *Killer Instinct* T-shirt, and a *Killer Instinct* compact disc! His winning essay:

The wrestler who, in my opinion, has the most killer instinct is Sabu. The man would make a great video game character. He embodies a bloodlust and penchant for victory that mirrors all of the fighters in ***Killer Instinct****. They, however, need weapons. Not Sabu. He is his own weapon.*

The four second-place winners, each of whom will receive a **Killer Instinct** Super NES cartridge, T-shirt, and compact disc, are: Andrew Cosentino of Peekskill, New York; Otis F. Putnam IV of Brunswick, Georgia; Paul Vu of Santa Ana, California; and Lawrence D. Weaver of Hyattsville, Georgia.

The four third-place winners, each of whom will receive a **Killer Instinct** T-shirt and compact disc, are: Kris Kurz of Sterling Heights, Michigan; Michele Miller of Collingswood, New Jersey; Randall Mixon of Columbus, Georgia; and Mark Perez of Bealeton, Virginia.

Congratulations to all our winners—and thanks to everyone who entered! □

win lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

JERRY LAWLER INSISTS he is not afraid of snakes or, as he put it, "any four-legged animal, including Jake Roberts." If that's true, then how come Lawler spent more than 36 minutes hiding under the ring at the 1996 Royal Rumble after Roberts dipped into his bag of reptiles?

"Are you kidding me?" Lawler asked in his best snide WWF voice. "I'm surprised any of those ignorant fans stuck around after Roberts turned that thing loose. I'm not one to run into my house just because there's some garter snake on my doorstep, but who knew what that snake was? It could've been poisonous. You never know with Roberts. He's nuts."

I didn't have the heart to tell Lawler that underneath the ring was exactly the wrong place to hide if you want to get away from a snake. It's darker and cooler than any other place in the building, just the perfect resting place for a snake. But I don't think that's the real reason Lawler went under; I think "The King" was looking for an easy way to win the Royal Rumble.

Lawler didn't succeed, because Shawn Michaels knew he was there and dragged him out. Minutes later, Lawler was officially eliminated. But Lawler's under-the-ring shenanigans, along with a few other things that took place at the 1996 Royal Rumble, point out the need for some rule changes in an event that, until now, had gone off without a hitch.

First of all, Lawler didn't do anything illegal by hiding under the ring. According to Royal Rumble rules, the only way a wrestler can be eliminated is by being thrown over the top rope and having both feet touch the arena floor. There's nothing in there about countouts.

"I didn't know that," Lawler remarked.

Yeah, sure.

"Well, I'd heard something about it, but I didn't know what they meant," Lawler conceded. "But that's interesting. I'll try to remember that for next year."

You can rest assured Lawler knows every nook and cranny of every wrestling rulebook and is aware of the nuances of every specialty match. The problem with the Royal Rumble is that there are no rules. A wrestler doesn't have to stay in the ring once he gets in, although protocol and honor require that he fight the battle. Since honor means absolutely nothing to the WWF version of Jerry Lawler, the rules of conduct are absolutely meaningless.

If Lawler got away with it, he could have hid under the ring until Shawn Michaels eliminated Diesel. Then, just as Michael was celebrating his victory, Lawler could have popped up and said, "There's one more guy left!" A cool, rested Lawler would have had a good chance of eliminating

(Continued on page 72)

Jake Roberts has always enjoyed using his snake friends to intimidate his enemies, but at the 1996 Royal Rumble, he almost used a snake to help earn him a shot at the WWF World title.

LOOK OUT!

THE FUTURE OF WRESTLING IS HERE!

CHAMPIONS OF THE GALAXY
WRESTLING GAME

GENOCIDE

LOOKING FOR A GREAT WRESTLING GAME? HERE'S THE ORIGINAL AND STILL THE BEST!

Champions of the Galaxy has been wrestling's hottest card game for eleven years! It's only the most realistic game federation of all time! And we've added new game editions that have taken the game to an even higher level!

You play with wrestler playing cards, action charts and dice! You're the head promoter and there are over 150 awesome wrestlers of the future at your fingertips! Each wrestler playing card features a fantastic drawing on one side and offensive moves and game stats on the other side!

Everything that happens in the WWF or WCW also happens in Champions of the Galaxy wrestling game! There's managers, valets, deadly special matches, talk show hosts . . . you name it! And you control all the action!

If you haven't ordered yet you're lucky because we're hotter than ever! Accept no substitutes!

THE MAIN EVENT

GENOCIDE vs. TORPOR

Who do you think would win? It's just one of hundreds of incredible matches you'll schedule on amazing wrestling supercards in your fed!

TORPOR

Please mark the box for the order you wish to receive.

☐ **CHAMPIONS OF THE GALAXY — FIRST EDITION**
Features Star Warrior and Thantos. Includes everything you'll need to play the game, such as dice, action charts, instruction booklet, and 24 wrestler playing cards. **$15**

☐ **FIVE GAME EDITIONS** — First edition plus the next four editions! **Over 60 wrestler playing cards plus five game books!** Includes Bishop Hell! . . . . . **Special Price – $45**

☐ **TEN GAME EDITIONS** — First edition plus nine more editions! **Over 120 wrestler playing cards plus ten game books!** Includes Chaos! . . . . . **Special Price – $78**

☐ **ALL SIXTEEN GAME EDITIONS — Over 180 wrestler playing cards plus sixteen game books!** Features Genocide! Plus a free copy of *GWF Promoter* newsletter, the coolest game newsletter in wrestling! . . . . . **The Greatest Deal of All! – $108**

The Future of Wrestling is not going to pass me by! Send the order I've marked to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail this coupon with a check or money order to:

Filsinger Games
P.O. Box 3493
Jamestown, NY 14702-3493

Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery. Write to Filsinger Games for a free flier containing more information.

****

ORDERS FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S. ARE WELCOME!

All foreign orders must be paid for in U.S. currency. Overseas orders, add an additional 15% for postage and handling. New York orders add 7% sales tax.

the steel cage

By Chris Bernucca

BLACK SUNDAY. Not everyone watches the Super Bowl. Television ratings indicate that even the most compelling games are ignored by nearly half the country.

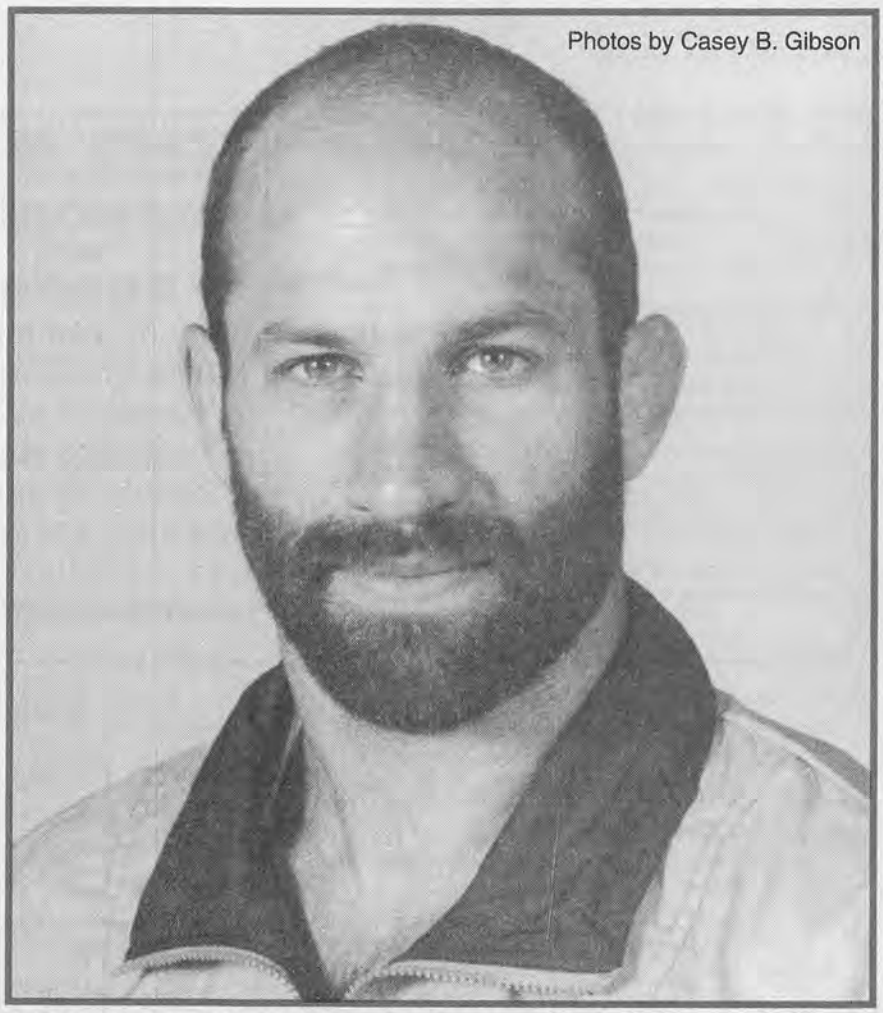
Who doesn't watch it? Well, children who don't stay up late. Women (and some men) who don't give a damn. And you can sure that a certain very eccentric millionaire in a Philadelphia suburb didn't watch Super Bowl XXX. Hours before it started, he was busy watching an army of police forming outside his mansion.

John E. duPont, the heir to the chemical company fortune and a major contributor to USA Wrestling, allegedly shot and killed amateur grappler Dave Schultz on January 26, then holed up in his house for approximately 48 hours. A few hours before the Super Bowl kickoff, he was finally apprehended and charged with nine crimes, including first-degree murder.

This is not "Dr. D" David Shultz, the *professional* wrestler who made a name for himself by slapping *20/20* correspondent John Stossel on national TV. This is not professional wrestling, with its outrageous costumes, interviews, and pay-per-view events. And this is not any feud any promoter could have imagined.

This is a sad story. Amateur wrestling is a truly amateur sport in every sense of the word. There are no dream teams, appearance fees, or endorsements. You dedicate your life to earning a spot on the Olympic team and a right to compete against the best in the world. If you're lucky, a video clip of your winning match is shown as some pretty face in a studio does a voice-over accompanied by a graphic or two. Then you slink back into anonymity and go raise cattle or sell insurance or something else unspectacular.

Dave Schultz knew all about the moment of glory and the lifetime of anonymity that the Olympics provides for competitors in true amateur sports. In 1984, he was the best in the world in his weight class, winning a gold medal in Los Angeles. But Schultz was a man who competed in a sport devoid of glamour, a sport in which appearance counts for nothing and performance counts for everything. To illustrate the difference, consider that Mary Lou Retton also won a gold



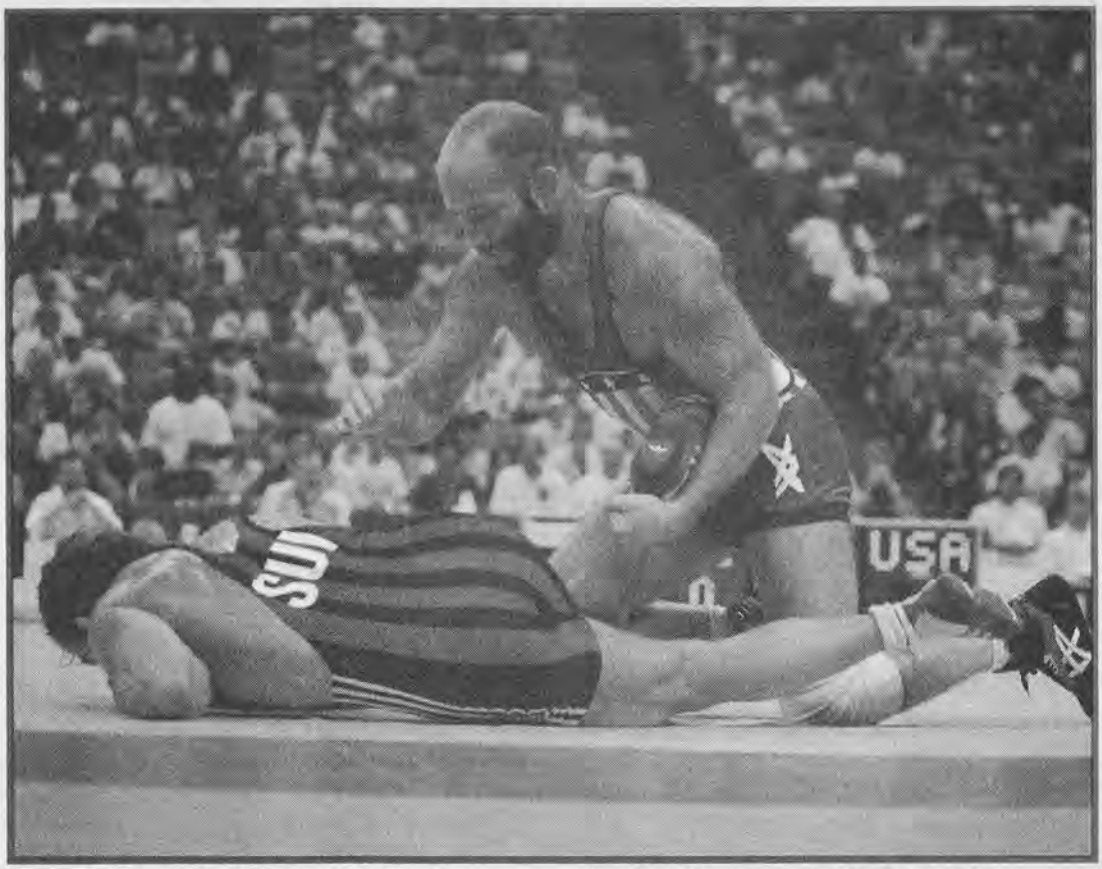
Photos by Casey B. Gibson

Dave Schultz was a devoted husband and father, as well as a gold medal winner in wrestling. Chris Bernucca thinks it's a shame that someone like Schultz never made big headlines until he was murdered.

medal (in gymnastics) in the 1984 Olympics. A generation later, her smile still comes bounding into our living room on occasion.

But Schultz didn't care about all that corporate stuff. He just wanted to wrestle. In fact, he was in the process of engineering a successful comeback. Twelve years later, he had again ascended to the top of his weight class and was considered a favorite when the world was to meet again in Atlanta this summer. He had a good chance to become the first wrestler to win gold medals 12 years apart.

The irony in all of this is that Schultz was denied that chance by duPont, the man who had helped to make it possible in the first place.



Before his death in January, Schultz, 36, was preparing to make a comeback at the 1996 Olympics. He wasn't as flashy as the average pro wrestler, says Bernucca, but that shouldn't diminish his legacy.

Until that fateful weekend in late-January, duPont was known as a philanthropist. He loved amateur wrestling and devoted his life to it. He had gone from competitor to coach to financier, contributing millions to USA Wrestling and building a state-of-the-art facility on his property where aspiring grapplers such as Schultz could dedicate their lives to their craft without worrying about where their next meals were coming from. To those who wore tights and boots, duPont was a hero.

He was a rich hero, make no mistake about it. Take a look through your pantry and you will find his family name on more than one item. The duPonts are as much a part of Americana as the Super Bowl itself. They make the oil that you put in the engine of your car that gets you to your buddy's house to watch the game. They make the cleaner that wipes the dust off the screen of the TV. They make the plastic wrap that saves the food that everyone stops eating in the third quarter. They make things that make life a little easier for people like you and me.

But because he is rich, duPont is not like you and me. You and I live in apartments and houses. I heard one newscaster refer to duPont's home as "the compound." You and I might send $100 to the alumni fund of our alma mater. DuPont gave $5-million to Villanova University, which now has an arena bearing his name. You and I would have damaged telephone lines repaired. DuPont never bothered after a fire knocked out his a few months before the Schultz shooting.

And this is where the philanthropist fades and the eccentric takes over. With the ability to do anything and go anywhere, duPont spent most of his time supervising the wrestling facility on his own property.

According to eyewitnesses, duPont shot Schultz three times in plain sight as the wrestler sat in his car. duPont then retreated to his "compound" as law enforcement officials descended upon the fringes of his property, but did nothing. DuPont, you see, is an excellent marksman who had allowed local police to use the firing range on his property to practice. A potential public relations disaster was averted when police shut off the boilers that heated duPont's mansion, then apprehended him when he emerged to repair them.

USA Wrestling wasn't nearly as fortunate. In a span of 48 hours, it lost one of its top competitors and its major contributor. Neither was Schultz' family, a wife and two kids left to mourn and ponder the insanity of the entire weekend. And amateur sports—which languishes in the high-priced shadow cast by its professional partner—has suffered a tremendous loss as well.

Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17. Who gives a damn? □

off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

IT WASN'T TOO long ago that WCW touted itself as the federation of real athletes, marketing itself in direct opposition to the vaudevillian shenanigans perpetrated by its arch-rival, the WWF. Then Ted Turner went shopping and practically bought the WWF of the 1980s. Now we get an aging Hulk Hogan plus Col. Robert Parker and Sherri Martel's wedding on TV—well, we almost got that, but Madusa broke it up before actual vows could be exchanged. What a deal! At least in McMahon's world, we have Diesel and Bret Hart to compensate for Goldust and The Undertaker.

*When it comes to entertaining the masses, legendary screenwriter William Goldman (**Marathon Man, Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid, Misery, Princess Bride**) put it best when he said, "No one knows anything." It's a philosophy my letter writers have always taken to heart.*

Dear Eddie,

Do you think Gorilla Monsoon was right in taking away Hunter Hearst Helmsley's victory over Duke "The Dumpster" Droese in a pre-Royal Rumble match only after replays showed that Helmsley used a foreign object to win? Is this a new WWF policy?

CINDY RUTH
Muncie, IN

Dear Cindy,

Official WWF policy is to inspire controversy wherever and whenever possible. Imagine if the NFL used replays with the same capriciousness. Either the use of replays should be consistent in every match, or it shouldn't be used at all. Monsoon was grandstanding. He wanted to flex a little presidential muscle and grab some headlines. If you had to report to Vince McMahon every day, you'd want a little glory, too.

Dear Eddie,

Is Ted Turner grooming Kevin Greene to be the next Hulk Hogan? How much money do you think Greene got to appear alongside Randy Savage at Clash of the Champions XXXII in Las Vegas?

LYLE JAMESON
London, England

Dear Lyle,

If Turner is grooming him for a career in the ring, then he shouldn't have paid him anything. After all, wrestlers—even successful ones—will often drive two hours for a free dinner, then stuff as much extra food as they can in a bag for the road. Maybe Kevin Greene did it for the thrill of entering the ring to a standing ovation, which was in stark contrast to the greeting he received back in Pittsburgh after he all but disappeared during Super Bowl XXX.

(Continued on page 74)

Who would have thought that yours truly would become a WWF fan in Vince McMahon's lifetime? Hey, I'd much rather watch Diesel take on The Undertaker than see Hulk and his pals bicker in WCW.

TAKE US ON!

#1: Big Ben

#2: Ace Stevens

#3: Jaeger van Dorn

#4: Bodybag Jones

#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage

#6: Eric Darkstrom

#7: Nook the Secret Weapon

#8: Derek Craven

#9: El Diablo Sanchez

#10: Tygar Singh

Hurry! Create your own imaginary wrestler and have him face off against any of these IWA veterans—there's no waiting and

★ ★ ★ ***NO ENTRY FEE!*** ★ ★ ★

Battle one, two, or all ten of these fierce competitors. We'll **immediately** put your wrestler in one of our 100+ exciting leagues and send him in the ring with the opponents you chose! You will receive the match results, the official IWA Handbook, and your membership card **right away!** Plus, your wrestler will be entered in our Rookie Brawl, and the winner gets an *engraved plaque!*

The Imaginary Wrestling Association is the original and the best play-by-mail wrestling organization *anywhere*. Matches still cost just **$1.00 each**, the same low price we started with in 1985! And it's the ONLY place where you can win an **ACTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT!**

So take us on! Find out if you're tough enough to handle the best! Fill out the coupon below or a copy of it *today* and mail it with $1.00 for each opponent to:

★ ★ ★ **IWA Challenge**
Box 5275
Willowick, Ohio 44095 ★ ★ ★

© 1994 ISC. All Rights Reserved

WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces.

FINISHING HOLD

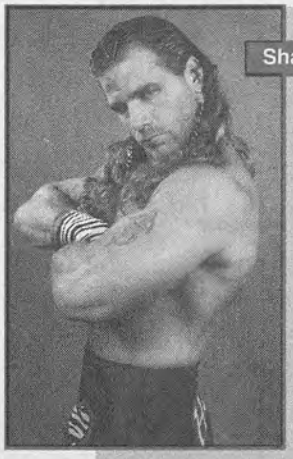
Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose $1.00 for each.

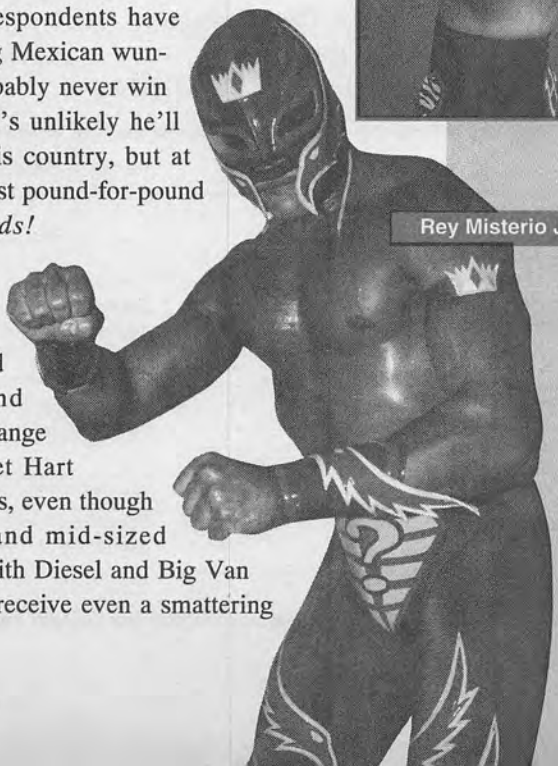
1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__

THE 1996 WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

1. WHO IS, POUND-FOR-POUND, THE BEST WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Rey Misterio Jr	*19% (0%)*
Shawn Michaels	*15% (26%)*
Bret Hart	*14% (11%)*
Sabu	*12% (19%)*
Mitsuharu Misawa	*7% (2%)*
The Great Muta	*5% (2%)*
Others	*28% (40%)*


Shawn Michaels


Rey Misterio Jr.

The Great Muta

Will wonders never cease? It's clear from this stunning result that our respondents have been paying attention. High-flying Mexican wunderkind Rey Misterio Jr. will probably never win a world heavyweight title, and it's unlikely he'll ever achieve superstardom in this country, but at 140 pounds, it's likely he's the best pound-for-pound wrestler of all-time. *140 pounds!* Madusa weighs more than that! Votes were well spread out in this category. Shawn Michaels, last year's winner, received solid support coming off his second straight Royal Rumble victory. Strange that WWF World champion Bret Hart received fewer votes than Michaels, even though they weigh the same. Small and mid-sized wrestlers dominated the voting, with Diesel and Big Van Vader being the only big men to receive even a smattering of support.

PWI POLL

IF INTROSPECTION IS a good thing, then this is the fourth consecutive year that we've provided a service to wrestling. What does wrestling think about wrestling? In the 1996 ***PWI*** *Poll, we found out ... in 50 different ways.*

Back in December, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED mailed out 143 ballots (up 18 from last year) in an effort to get some answers. The ballots were sent to a cross-section of the sport's champions, contenders, and preliminary wrestlers; managers and referees; commissioners and presidents; promoters and matchmakers; journalists, TV announcers, and photographers; and anyone else who contributes to the sport. They were asked to answer 50 questions pertaining to wrestling and the people within it. The answers provide a unique and important perspective on the sport. Several questions were repeated from last year; many are new. All make for vital reading.

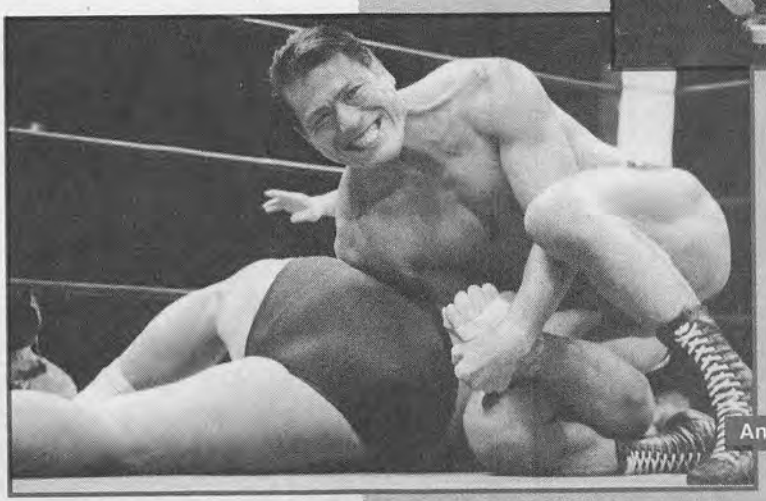
Once again, the poll was split into two parts: Part I consists of general and specific questions about the sport. Part II is our "Best Of The Best," in which insiders voted on who has the best of various finishing holds and maneuvers. Where applicable, numbers in parentheses are last year's results.

2. IF YOU COULD WATCH THE MATCHES OF ONLY ONE WRESTLER, WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Sabu	*25% (8%)*
Shawn Michaels	*22% (2%)*
Ric Flair	*8% (63%)*
Big Van Vader	*7% (5%)*
Antonio Inoki	*6% (2%)*
Others	*32% (20%)*

Sabu moonsaults onto Hack Myers

Annually one of our favorite questions because it leaves the respondents room to use their imaginations and vote for retired wrestlers, this year it gave us a fascinating result. Last year, Flair dominated the voting, even though he had recently retired. This year, Flair's support dwindled significantly, even though he's back in action! Perhaps the voters didn't like what they saw! Sabu continues to thrill viewers with action-packed, high-flying matches and is clearly the most exciting wrestler today. He stopped Flair's three-year "winning streak."



Antonio Inoki

3. IF YOU COULD WATCH THE MATCHES OF ONLY ONE TAG TEAM, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

The Road Warriors	*30% (36%)*
Rick & Scott Steiner	*16% (20%)*
The Midnight Express	*11% (18%)*
The Nasty Boys	*10% (1%)*
The British Bulldogs	*7% (8%)*
The Hart Foundation	*7% (7%)*
Public Enemy	*5% (0%)*
Others	*14% (10%)*

Good news? Well, that all depends on how you look at it. Last year, not one active tag team cracked the top five. This year, one regularly active tag team—WCW's Nasty Boys—found its way among recently departed and mostly inactive duos. Public Enemy's arrival in WCW should be good news for the tag team picture, but respondents obviously pine for the good ol' days and are still hungry for a full-time return by Hawk and Animal or Rick and Scott Steiner. By the way, WWF World tag team champions The Smokin' Gunns finally received a vote (two, in fact), and former WCW World tag team champions Harlem Heat received three.

Nasty Boys

4. WHO WOULD WIN A MATCH BETWEEN BRET HART AND RIC FLAIR?

In our annual matchup of press time WCW and WWF world champions, the WWF turned the tables on its arch-rival with an overwhelming victory by "The Hitman." Last year, Hulk Hogan won by a huge margin over Diesel. This year, the younger, stronger, and sharper Hart was a clear winner over the "Nature Boy."

Bret Hart	*86%*
Ric Flair	*14%*

5. WHICH NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION HAS THE HIGHEST QUALITY WRESTLING?

Sandman piledrives Dreamer in ECW

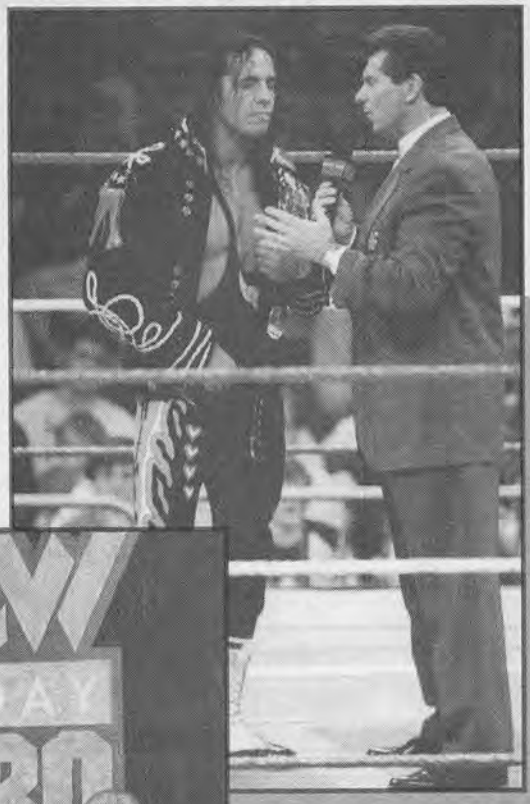
WCW	*48% (58%)*
WWF	*39% (36%)*
ECW	*11% (3%)*
Others	*2% (3%)*

WCW won for the fourth consecutive year, but the results can hardly be considered good news for a federation that has spent millions and millions of dollars upgrading its talent. The question focuses on quality of wrestling, not TV, glitz, glamour, or any other intangibles. The WWF closed the gap again, but the important news is that neither of the "Big Two" received a majority of the votes. ECW, which combines traditional wrestling with a high level of violence, garnered support, thanks to the presence of Sabu, Tommy Dreamer, Rey Misterio Jr., Raven, The Sandman, 2 Cold Scorpio, and others. Hardly a vote of confidence for the WWF and WCW.

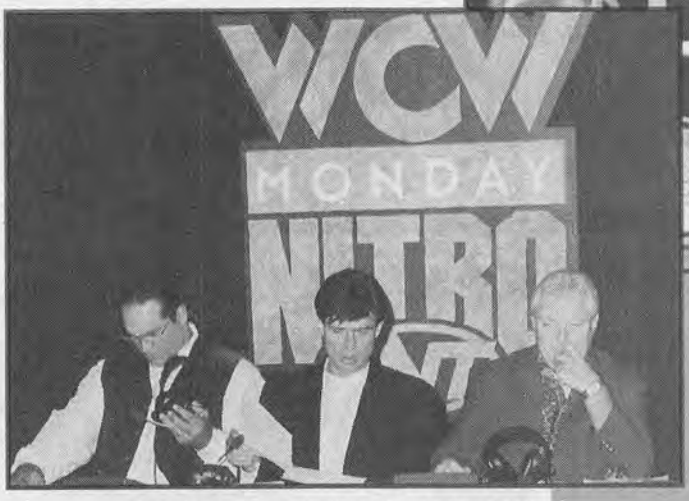
6. HAS WCW SURPASSED THE WWF AS THE PREMIER FEDERATION IN NORTH AMERICA?

Yes	*58% (43%)*
No	*40% (49%)*
Undecided	*2% (8%)*

Just a few years ago, this question would have been viewed as ludicrous: The WWF was clearly dominant. But WCW has gained a lot of ground on the WWF, thanks mostly to the addition of the very hot WCW Monday Nitro show, which is broadcast live every week. WCW also signed some fine young wrestlers in Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko, and Chris Benoit in 1995, though its veteran stars continue to hog most of the spotlight. Ric Flair's return may have helped WCW some, but Flair seems more intent on resolving old feuds. Bret Hart's return to the top of WWF helped that federation's image, and now Shawn Michaels is making a run at the World title. "The WWF has strung together several outstanding pay-per-view efforts and has maintained much of its audience, even though it lost many of its top stars," said one respondent. Another respondent termed the WWF's "new generation" moniker "a joke," but added, "They could easily take over as the top federation again very soon."



McMahon interviews Bret on *Raw*



McMichael, Bischoff, and Heenan at *Nitro*

7. WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WILL THE WWF AND WCW ELIMINATE ALL NON-TELEVISED ARENA CARDS FROM THEIR SCHEDULES?

No	*82%*
Yes	*13%*
Not sure	*5%*

We asked this question because WCW rarely holds cards that aren't either pay-per-views, TV tapings, or *Nitro* broadcasts. The WWF continues to schedule frequent arena cards, although not at its previous rate of almost two per day. With arena attendance down, the federations are clearly concentrating on pulling in more TV and pay-per-view income. But will the trend continue? "I don't think so," said one independent promoter. "You have to keep building and rebuilding your audience. Let's say, for example, you hold a card in a 15,000-seat building and only 4,000 people show up. Okay, so you've lost money. But what if 10 people in that audience have never seen wrestling before and become fans for life? Then you have 10 new people to watch your TV shows, buy your merchandise, and pay for pay-per-views. You have to take a longer view of your investment." Yet, added another promoter, "fans aren't coming out the way they used to. The days of a sold-out Madison Square Garden are over for now. People would rather stay home and watch."

8. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WRESTLING'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS HOPELESS, CLOUDY, STATUS QUO, PROMISING, OR SHINING?

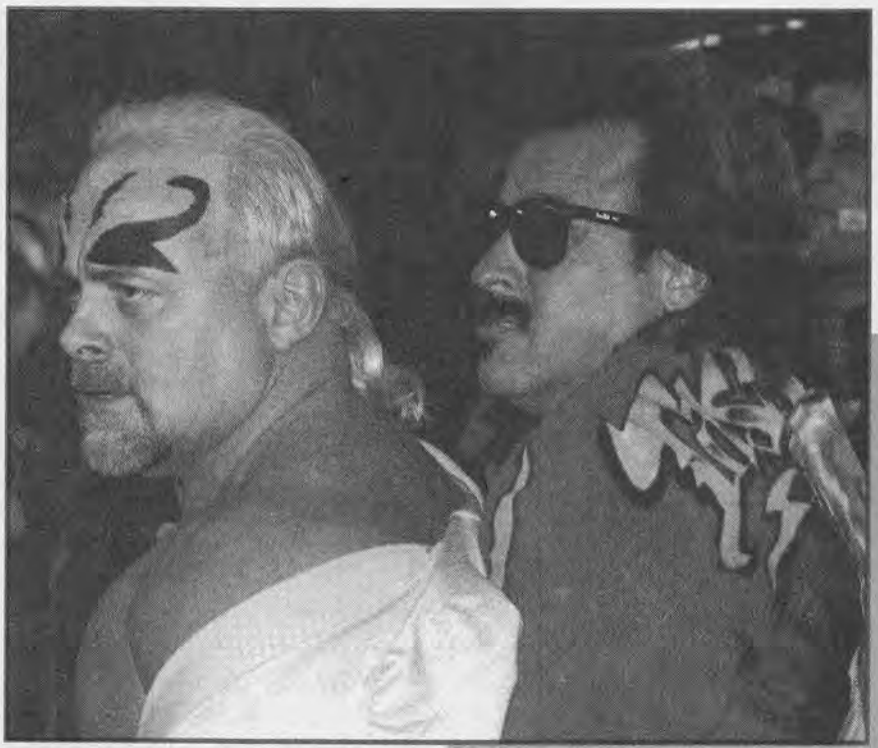
Status quo	*38% (33%)*
Promising	*34% (43%)*
Cloudy	*20% (15%)*
Shining	*7% (8%)*
Hopeless	*1% (1%)*

This year's ballots were mailed out just weeks after news hit that Smoky Mountain Wrestling, one of the top independent federations, had folded, leaving the USWA and ECW as the only top guns among the indys in North America. Depression was understandable, and it showed in the results, as "status quo" passed "promising," and "cloudy" leapfrogged over "shining." The WWF saw continued attendance decreases while WCW cut back on live cards. The federations went to Monday night war and, while hitting each other over the heads, helped the sport. There wasn't much negative publicity for the sport, but not much positive either. The future of the independents remains in doubt: With the two big players getting bigger, can the little guys survive?

9. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST MANAGER?

Jimmy Hart	*43% (15%)*
Jim Cornette	*40% (54%)*
Sherri Martel	*6% (2%)*
Kevin Sullivan	*5% (0%)*
Ted DiBiase	*4% (6%)*
Others	*2% (23%)*

Jimmy Hart managed two WCW World champions in 1995: Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair. He managed the most popular group of fan favorites in the world, then moved on to the most hated clique of rulebreakers without missing a beat. Bottom line: "He just kept on winning," wrote an insider. "He has shown tremendous versatility over the past few years, and the way he has almost orchestrated WCW events is just about uncanny. Hart is working the federation like an expert puppeteer." Jim Cornette's three-year winning streak came to an end, although we have an idea that with Big Van Vader now in his stable, Cornette could be back on top next year. Sherri Martel managed Harlem Heat to the WCW World tag team title and picked up votes. Ted DiBiase had a tough year. Votes for others included Tammy "Sunny" Fytch, Woman, Col. Rob Parker, and Paul Bearer.



Kevin Sullivan and Jimmy Hart

10. WHO REALLY RULES MONDAY NIGHTS?

WCW	*48%*
WWF	*43%*
Even	*5%*
Neither	*4%*

Give credit to WCW, which one year ago wasn't even a Monday night player. It overcame the WWF's *Monday Night Raw* with its always-live *Monday Nitro*. We were most interested in the comments of those who answered "even" or "neither." Those who responded either way said they couldn't choose between the two, so they'd watch one and tape the other. Some of the "neither" voters complained that the Monday night wrestling programs are nothing more than glitzy hype machines.

11. HOGAN OR FLAIR: WHO WILL LAUGH LAST?

Hogan vs. Flair

Hulk Hogan 69%
Ric Flair 31%

Flair had the most recent laugh when he regained (and subsequently lost) the WCW World title, but Hogan has had the edge in this feud for a long time, and our insiders think that will continue. They described Flair's weaknesses as "a lack of focus" and "too much bitterness," while one said Hogan "has never lost a feud he really wanted to win."

12. SHOULD SHAWN MICHAELS RETIRE?

No 71%
Yes 14%
Undecided 15%

Should Magic Johnson have returned to the NBA? Did Mario Lemieux come back to the NHL too soon? These are questions that only the athletes themselves can answer. Michaels wouldn't take our advice if we told him to retire, although he's likely to go along with the insiders who say he should stick around. Months ago, Michaels' career was feared to be over because of a serious concussion and its aftereffects. He returned to win the Royal Rumble after doctors proclaimed him fit to wrestle. Our insiders felt Michaels made the right move by coming back to the sport he loves. "It's what he does for a living," one insider wrote. "What else is he supposed to do?"

Shawn Michaels clotheslines Rad Radford

13. WHO IS WRESTLING'S SEXIEST WOMAN?

The Diamond Doll

Tammy "Sunny" Fytch 47%
Beulah McGillicutty 19%
Woman 15%
The Diamond Doll 14%
Others 5%

Beautiful, blonde, and shapely Tammy Fytch, known in the WWF as Sunny, Queen of the Bodydonnas, has caught the eye of a lot of people. "Not only is she pretty, she's smart," wrote one insider. Only a handful of late votes came in for Elizabeth after her appearance at Clash of the Champions XXXII in Las Vegas. It was hard to miss the suddenly-blonde Miss Liz in her daringly low-cut dress, but let's keep an eye on ECW's Beulah. She received a lot of attention this summer when Tommy Dreamer piledrived her numerous times while she was wearing oh-so-mini miniskirts. Smart, sinister, and beautiful Woman isn't the sexiest woman in wrestling, but she's right up there. Votes for others included Madusa and Miss Texas.

14. WHO IS THE BEST TELEVISION COMMENTATOR IN WRESTLING?

Jerry Lawler	*25% (17%)*
Joey Styles	*23% (8%)*
Bobby Heenan	*12% (21%)*
Jim Ross	*8% (6%)*
Tony Schiavone	*7% (15%)*
Gene Okerlund	*6% (12%)*
Vince McMahon	*5% (5%)*
Others	*14% (16%)*

Once again, a lot of support for "others" as wrestling went another year without a truly great broadcaster. The sport still misses the likes of Jesse Ventura, who left two years ago, and Roddy Piper, who adds humor and irreverence to anything he touches. One insider remarked that Jerry Lawler "sounds so good because he's sitting next to Vince McMahon." Again, the complaint about Lawler and Bobby Heenan is that their commentary is too biased toward rule-breakers, and in Heenan's case, he makes too many dated references. Strong support for ECW broadcaster Joey Styles, mostly because ECW broadcasts are now seen on so many cable systems, and because Styles is so intense and entertaining. Gene Okerlund lost ground again and gained criticism for "shamelessly promoting WCW's hotline and providing little in the way of good, solid journalism." By the way, WCW's Steve McMichael received no votes. Surprised?

Heenan and Schiavone

15. WILL WE SEE A WWF WORLD CHAMPION VS. WCW WORLD CHAMPION MATCH WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR?

No	*100% (99%)*
Yes	*0% (1%)*

Hey, what's wrong with these people? Didn't they read the story in the Spring issue of WRESTLE AMERICA, the one in which we wrote that a joint WCW-WWF undertaking was almost a done deal? Guess not. (Actually, that story was based on the inevitability of such a matchup in the future.) The division between the two giants is getting larger for now. On several live *Monday Nitro* broadcasts in the past eight months, WCW announcers gave away the results of the taped *WWF Monday Night Raw* matches being aired at the same time. WWF has also resorted to taking pot shots at WCW with its "Billionaire Ted's 'Rasslin' War Room" skits and its proposed "Huckster" vs. "Nacho Man" bout at WrestleMania XII. "It's all-out war and at least for right now, there's no turning back," wrote one insider. The unanimous vote was a "*PWI* Poll" first.

"Billionare Ted"

16. IS THERE JUST ENOUGH, TOO MUCH, OR NOT ENOUGH PAY-PER-VIEW WRESTLING?

No surprise here. Ask the people within the sport—those who benefit from pay-per-view buckage—and it figures most will say there are just enough pay-per-view events. The paying fans might think otherwise. Interestingly enough, 95 percent of the writers and photographers polled said there is too much pay-per-view.

Just enough	*53%*
Too much	*44%*
Not enough	*3%*

Perhaps our insiders would think differently if they had to foot the bill for two pay-per-views each month; that was about the average in 1995.

17. SHOULD THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIPS BE OUTLAWED?

No *94%*
Yes *6%*

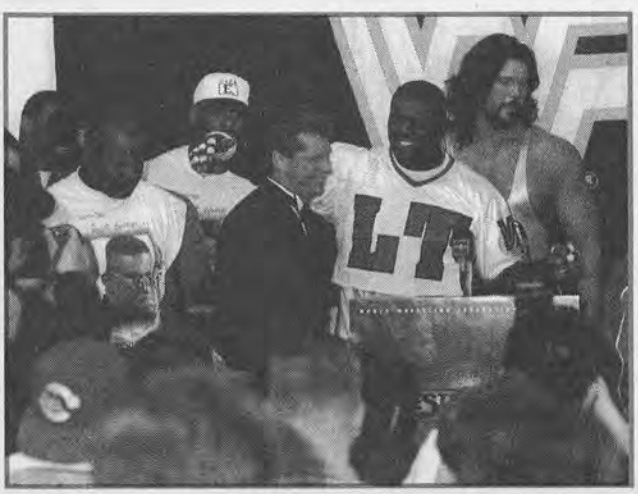
Can't accuse our insiders of being stupid or shortsighted. They obviously realize that if the lawmakers outlawed the Ultimate Fighting Championships, wrestling and boxing could be next on their lists. Of course, UFC has already been outlawed in several municipalities, and promoters have had to scramble to reschedule cards. "It's ridiculous," one insider wrote. "Ultimate Fighting is a legitimate sport." Not so, said one legislator, who compared the UFC to cockfighting.

Royce Gracie kicks Dan Severn in UFC

18. WOULD YOU DESCRIBE MAINSTREAM MEDIA COVERAGE OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

Diesel's tour of early-morning and late-night talk shows around the time of WrestleMania XII was nice, but where were the mainstream media when Hulk Hogan again overcame challengers to his WCW World title and Bret Hart regained the WWF belt? As many of our insiders noted, the only time the mainstream media paid attention was when Shawn Michaels was beaten up outside a Syracuse nightclub and former NFL star Lawrence Taylor wrestled Bam Bam Bigelow at WrestleMania XI. NBC could have scored points with wrestling fans, but it canceled a prime time re-broadcast of the Bigelow-Taylor match. At least Fox eventually ran a WrestleMania special. And at least the media paid attention a couple of times.

Poor ..... *90% (98%)*
Mediocre ..... *10% (2%)*



LT greets the media

19. WOULD YOU GAUGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF WRESTLING AS POOR, MEDIOCRE, GOOD, OR EXCELLENT?

Mediocre ..... *38% (37%)*
Poor ..... *37% (39%)*
Good ..... *18% (22%)*
Excellent ..... *7% (2%)*

"Mediocre" overcame "poor," and the "good" vote dropped four percent, but the big news here was the five percent climb in "excellent" responses. A lot of people credited that to the good showing by Diesel on the talk show circuit ("He gained a lot of fans," one insider wrote, "and he showed that not all wrestlers are Neanderthals") and the lack of controversy within the sport in 1995. Without a major steroid scandal, wrestling managed to stay out of the courts, too.

20. GIVE A LETTER GRADE TO INTERIM WWF PRESIDENT GORILLA MONSOON FOR HIS JOB PERFORMANCE: A, B, C, D, OR F

D *32%*
A *30%*
F *18%*
B *17%*
C *3%*

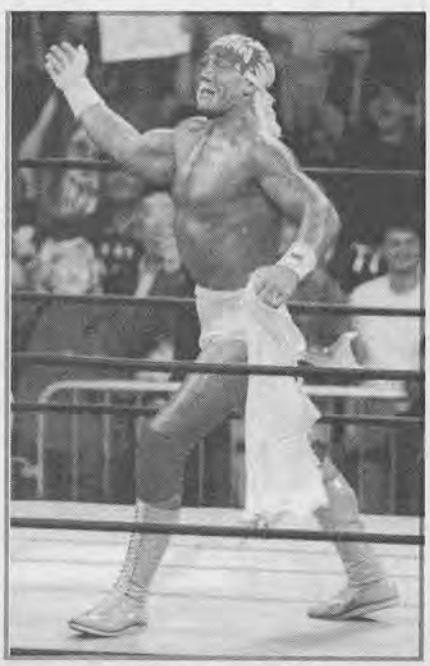
Say what? Obviously, very few people agree on the former wrestler/broadcaster's first year as president. Wrote one supporter: "Compared to [Jack] Tunney, he looks like a god. It's about time the WWF had a president that makes firm decisions and sticks with them." But a naysayer made a similar negative comment: "Reminds me of Judge Ito. Flip-flops all the time and plays to the cameras." Our insiders either loved him or hated him, although just about everybody agreed that Monsoon was "a little too fan favorite-friendly." One insider called Monsoon's decision to initially allow Shawn Michaels and Diesel's victory over Yokozuna and Owen Hart at In Your House III in September—even though Owen simply interfered in the match—"reprehensible and incomprehensible." Perhaps new acting WWF President Roddy Piper will do better.

Gorilla Monsoon

21. GIVE A LETTER TO WCW COMMISSIONER NICK BOCKWINKEL FOR HIS JOB PERFORMANCE: A, B, C, D, OR F

D ..... *48% (33%)*
F ..... *25% (7%)*
C ..... *19% (30%)*
B ..... *5% (25%)*
A ..... *3% (5%)*

Our insiders almost universally panned Bockwinkel, who had a difficult second year as WCW commissioner. A sampling of the comments: "Why did he put Flair's reinstatement up to a board vote? That was his decision to make, and he passed the buck." "The inmates are running the asylum. The Horsemen and the Dungeon of Doom have taken over, and Bockwinkel's lame responses are merely empowering them." "Putting the WCW World title up for grabs in a battle royal degraded the belt. And why didn't Bockwinkel overrule Savage's victory? It was clear The Giant pulled Hogan *under* the ropes." According to a few of our insiders, Bockwinkel's only good decision in 1995 was stripping Big Van Vader of the U.S. title.



Hulk Hogan

22. WHO IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN WRESTLING?

Hulk Hogan ..... *44% (62%)*
Vince McMahon ..... *24% (33%)*
Ted Turner ..... *20% (3%)*
Eric Bischoff ..... *12% (0%)*

For the past 12 years, Hulk Hogan has been the man around which the sport revolves. Although he doesn't make the everyday business decisions, two decisions by Hogan can change the balance of power in the sport: whether or not he wrestles, and in which federation he wrestles. To many people, the "Big Two" federations aren't labeled WCW and WWF. They're Hogan and No Hogan. WCW owner Ted Turner picked up ground, and WCW Executive Vice President Eric Bischoff received quite a bit of support, mainly for his role in making *Nitro* such a successful program so fast.

23. WHICH IS THE BEST WRESTLING SHOW ON TV, PAY-PER-VIEW, CABLE, *OR* OTHERWISE?

WWF's Royal Rumble *19%*
WCW's Starrcade *16%*
WWF's WrestleMania *14%*
WWF Monday Night Raw *12%*
WCW Monday Nitro *12%*
WWF King of the Ring *9%*
Others *18%*

The grand prize of the Royal Rumble—a shot at the WWF World champion at WrestleMania—along with the event format makes it the best wrestling show on TV, according to our insiders. "Every year, it brings out the best in the WWF's best," wrote one insider. Starrcade gained support because of, said one insider, "an outstanding 1995 event with the Japanese wrestlers and Flair's re-emergence." But support was spread out, and it's clear that, dollar-for-dollar, the free *Raw* and *Nitro* shows are the best buy for your wrestling buck. Votes for others included every pay-per-view of the past year—except WCW Uncensored—and ECW's weekly broadcasts.

24. WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP IN NORTH AMERICA?

WWF World ..... *52% (41%)*
WCW World ..... *48% (59%)*

As one insider wrote last year, "The belt itself is meaningless. The federation is meaningless." It's the wrestler who holds the title. With Bret Hart back on top and Shawn Michaels, Diesel, and The Undertaker in hot pursuit, the WWF now has the top heavyweight championship in the world. WCW has Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair, but neither had the belt at press time. "The general public perceived Randy Savage as washed up. The fact that he's champion hurts the federation," wrote one insider. Another insider blamed Hogan for the slight demise of the WCW belt. "He didn't defend it often enough when he had it. Then Savage won a blemished title. Then Flair cheated to win back the belt. It's been a tough year for the WCW title."

The two big belts

25. IS WRESTLING BETTER OR WORSE THAN IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO?

Better *61%*
Worse *39%*

Maybe the grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence. The half-full people said parity between the major federations has made wrestling a better sport. "The WWF and WCW are true competitors and they're working hard to beat each other," said one insider. "That has made things better for the fans." The half-empty people lamented the demise of The Road Warriors and the Steiners and "the ability of aging wrestlers such as Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, and Randy Savage to win major titles, even though they're in the twilight of their careers. On the good side: live Monday night TV shows, some strong independent federations, more interfederation cooperation, and an influx of talented young daredevils. On the bad side: fewer indys, a weakened tag team pool, and too much childish bickering between the WWF and WCW.

26. SHOULD *PWI* RECOGNIZE A THIRD WORLD TITLE?

No	*91%*
Yes	*9%*

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED used to recognize three world titles: the WWF's, the NWA/WCW's, and the AWA's. Since the AWA folded, we've recognized only two world titles: the WWF's and WCW's. We explained to our insiders that ECW has asked us to consider its heavyweight title a world title. Our insiders, some of whom were biased, were overwhelmingly against this idea. "Why would you want to water down the world titles that already exist?" questioned one insider. Another: "When ECW has been around for 10 years, maybe. There has to be a more solid track record. You'll look stupid if they run into [financial] problems and fold like Smoky Mountain." And wrote another: "It's only one world, so even two is too many. Why would you want three?"

27. WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Shane Douglas	*12%*
Eddy Guerrero	*11%*
Dan Severn	*9%*
The Kid	*8%*
Dean Malenko	*7%*
Steve Austin	*6%*
Others	*47%*

Not surprisingly, more than 50 wrestlers received votes in this category, and there was no clear-cut choice. One insider who voted for Shane Douglas said, "Most people don't realize how talented a wrestler he really is." As for The Kid, an insider wrote, "Every time he wins, they call it an upset. Well, he's won so many times, when is it going to stop being an upset?" For Steve Austin: "Even the federations where he wrestles don't respect him. This man could be a world champion if somebody would just give him the opportunity."

Shane Douglas

28. WHO IS THE MOST OVERRATED WRESTLER IN THE WORLD?

Lex Luger	*40%*
Sid Vicious	*30%*
Owen Hart	*9%*
The Undertaker	*8%*
Hulk Hogan	*6%*
Others	*7%*

The Undertaker punishes Isaac Yankem

Sorry, Lex, but apparently our insiders aren't impressed by a big man who is always ranked number one in the "close but no cigar" department. Luger never won the WWF World title, and he hasn't been WCW World champion since 1992. "For a guy who was billed as wrestling's next superstar, he sure hasn't done much. The amazing thing is how federations still go ga-ga over him," wrote one insider. Same for Sid Vicious, who blows a lot of hot air for a big man who hasn't done much. Surprising criticism for Owen Hart. "They talk about his great skills and stamina," wrote one insider. "But what's he ever done besides win the King of the Ring because of interference?" Also, surprising criticism for The Undertaker. "He rarely loses, but he never wins anything," one insider wrote.

29. WHO IS WRESTLING'S WILDEST DAREDEVIL?

Rey Misterio Jr. *42%*
Sabu *35%*
Jushin Liger *5%*
Others *18%*

Another big victory for Mexico's Mr. Misterio, who is always inventing new maneuvers as he goes along. Granted, Misterio is only 5'3", 140 pounds, so he's capable of elevating higher and doing more, but he's also positively fearless. Misterio scored a narrow victory over elite daredevil Sabu, who has scars from burns and cuts all over his body. Sabu has crashed through more tables than most people have sat at.

Rey Misterio Jr. catapults onto Psicosis

30. WHO IS WRESTLING'S BEST BRAWLER?

Big Van Vader .....*53% (53%)*
The Undertaker .....*17% (0%)*
The Giant .....*10% (0%)*
Cactus Jack .....*8% (21%)*
One Man Gang .....*5% (0%)*
Others .....*7% (26%)*

Vader wins again, thanks in part to his dominating display at the 1996 Royal Rumble, but the most interesting results came in the runner-up spots. Cactus Jack, one of the most fearless brawlers in history, and a king of falls-count-anywhere matches, slipped in the voting as the rejuvenated Undertaker, The Giant, and U.S. champion One Man Gang moved up.

31. WHICH IS WRESTLING'S BEST BRAWLING TAG TEAM?

Public Enemy *42%*
The Nasty Boys *41%*
The Gangstas *11%*
PG-13 .....*4%*
Others *2%*

The Gangstas vs. Public Enemy

The brawling tag team has taken over a new niche in wrestling, as several duos are battling to emerge as the best streetfighting team in the world. Four-time ECW tag champs Public Enemy arrived in WCW and immediately declared war on The Nasty Boys. Our insiders think the newcomers have the edge, but by the smallest of margins. "Public Enemy is fearless and will do anything to win," one insider wrote. "The key is that they're so hungry." Wrote another insider: "The Nasty Boys don't like anyone stepping on their turf. When challenged, they'll respond."

32. WHICH IS THE BEST INDEPENDENT FEDERATION IN NORTH AMERICA?

ECW .....*62% (48%)*
USWA .....*15% (17%)*
AAA .....*14% (4%)*
Others .....*9% (31%)*

Smoky Mountain folded and ECW picked up its support. Last year, SMW got 22 percent of the vote. Once again, our insiders praised ECW for providing fans with high-quality, high-intensity action at a fan-friendly price. "They've really come into their own," wrote one insider. "ECW has gained a devoted fan following—almost a cult following—and they're starting to send wrestlers into the mainstream." For example, Sabu, Chris Benoit, Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko, and Public Enemy all signed with WCW over the past year. Old-timer USWA continues to have a major impact on wrestling. Jeff Jarrett, Jerry Lawler, and Jesse James Armstrong have all gone on to WWF fame, although the USWA is being challenged by ECW as the main producer of WWF/WCW talent (with most ECW wrestlers going to WCW and most USWA wrestlers going to the WWF). How strong are the indys these days? Five of the top 10 tag teams in a recent *PWI* ranking came from the independents.

33. WHO GIVES THE BEST INTERVIEWS?

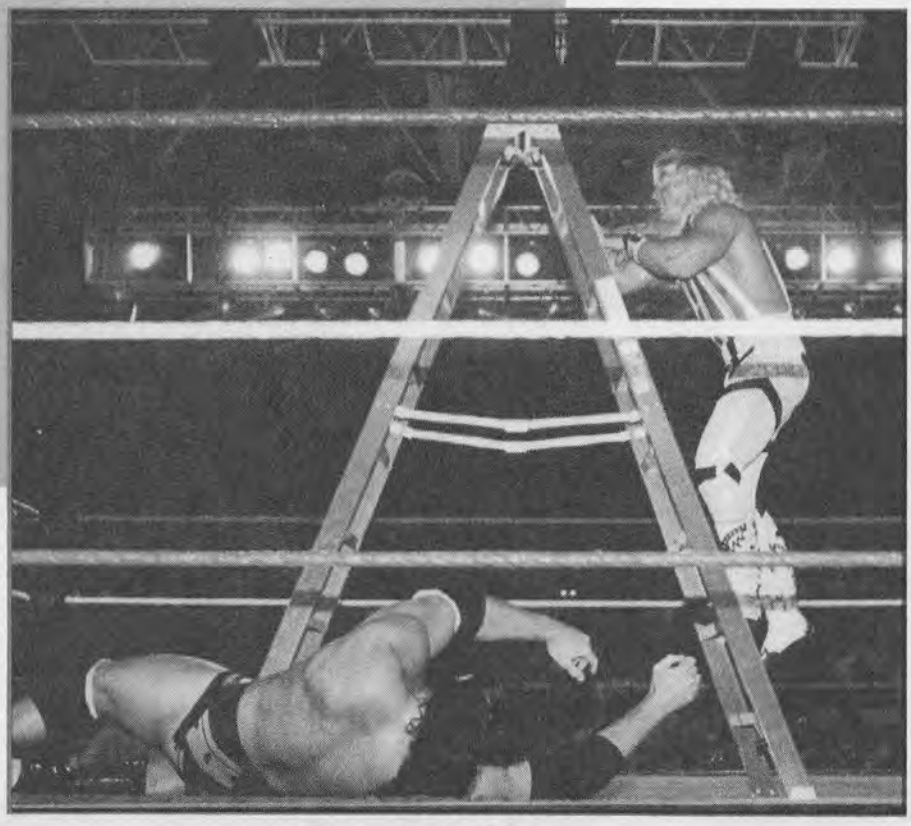
Cactus Jack	*19% (4%)*
Big Van Vader	*17% (20%)*
Paul Bearer	*13% (2%)*
Jeff Jarrett	*12% (1%)*
Jim Cornette	*11% (3%)*
Public Enemy	*9% (0%)*
Bob Backlund	*6% (13%)*
Others	*13% (57%)*

Interviews are such an important part of our sport that there are actually marginal fans who refuse to attend pay-per-views and TV tapings because they can't hear all the interviews. Wrestling is the only sport in which the participants regularly send messages to their opponents in interviews. It's an important part of the intimidation process. Our insiders noted that Cactus Jack's interviews have become more meaningful and colorful since he joined ECW. Sometimes he'll go on for 10 minutes at a time and sound like a raving lunatic, but his interviews sure are entertaining. Vader, last year's top pick, dropped for a simple reason: "When Hogan floored him, the message lost its bite," one insider wrote. Bearer, Jarrett, Cornette, Public Enemy, and Backlund are all entertaining in their own way.

34. WHICH COUNTRY PRODUCES THE BEST WRESTLERS?

U.S.	*37%*
Japan	*32%*
Mexico	*19%*
Great Britain	*4%*
Others	*8%*

If you listen to the reverential manner in which some members of the wrestling media refer to wrestlers from Japan, you might be left with the impression that U.S. wrestlers don't measure up in any manner. It has become fashionable in the press to tout the exploits of Japanese wrestlers. Two recent series pitting the best of WCW against the best of New Japan proved little more than what the Major League All-Star Game proves each year. But the fact that Japan finished so strongly in a poll that was answered primarily by Americans is somewhat significant.



Ladder match: Jarrett vs. Ramon

35. WHICH IS THE BEST SPECIALTY MATCH?

Falls-count-anywhere	*35% (5%)*
Steel cage	*15% (17%)*
Ladder	*14% (5%)*
Chain	*13% (14%)*
Others	*23% (59%)*

Wrote one insider: "You wrote last year that you had the idea the voters weren't thrilled with this question. Well, you're right. Most people want regular one-on-one or tag team matches. But if you have to have a specialty match, I guess falls-count-anywhere is as good as anything." Steel cage matches won last year, but falls-count-anywhere matches have become more common, especially in ECW.

36. WHO IS THE BEST FOREIGN WRESTLER?

Mitsuharu Misawa kicks Stan Hansen

Mitsuharu Misawa 24% (4%)
The Great Muta 22% (22%)
Rey Misterio Jr. 18% (0%)
Antonio Inoki 9% (2%)
Nobuhiko Takada 8% (0%)
Jushin Liger 7% (0%)
Others 12% (72%)

It has been a great year for Mitsuharu Misawa, who won the All-Japan Triple Crown championship from Stan Hansen last May and defeated former Triple Crown champion Toshiaki Kawada in July. Misawa was ranked 10th in the 1995 "*PWI* 500." The Great Muta won in this category last year, but he had a less successful 1995 and lost the IWGP heavyweight title on January 4, 1996. Antonio Inoki has beaten Lord Steven Regal, Sting, Ric Flair, and Big Van Vader in the past two years. He is obviously not a washed-up legend; his support from our insiders was not at all surprising.

37. WHO IS THE BEST FOREIGN WRESTLER CURRENTLY WRESTLING PRIMARILY IN NORTH AMERICA?

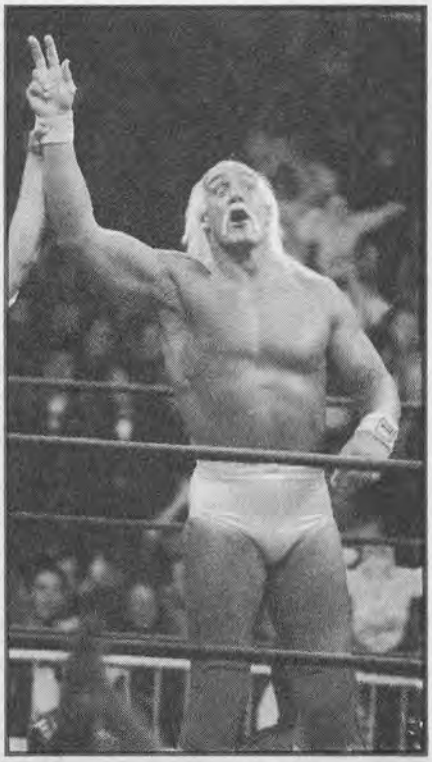
Sabu 35% (41%)
Davey Boy Smith 24% (26%)
Yokozuna 14% (7%)
Lord Steven Regal 11% (12%)
Others 16% (14%)

Sabu, the daredevil superstar from Bombay, India, takes home the prize for the second consecutive year and again by an impressive margin. Britain-born star Davey Boy Smith had a solid year and contended for all WWF titles. Yokozuna, from Samoa, has re-emerged as a World title contender. Though 1995 was not a particularly great year for Lord Steven Regal, many of our insiders still think a lot of his skills.

38. WILL 1996 BE HULK HOGAN'S FINAL YEAR IN WRESTLING?

No 59%
Yes 39%
Unsure 2%

The "Hulkster" took a lot of heat for not wrestling often enough when he was WCW World champion, but he increased his wrestling schedule late in 1995 and early in 1996. He now wrestles on almost every Nitro card and on most WCW pay-per-views. "It's not like he has to be on the road six days a week in WCW anymore," said one insider. "He still seems to be enjoying himself in the ring, and he's still very effective. I don't see why he couldn't keep wrestling once or twice a week for another few years." Said another: "1996 will be it. There's nothing more for him to accomplish. The next time he retires, it'll be for good."



Hulk Hogan

FINISHING IT OFF: WHO HAS THE BEST OF THE BEST?

In the June 1995 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, we presented our second "Best Of The Best" poll. It was a comprehensive study of wrestling's most awesome finishing moves and the men who use them. The ratings were based on how often a wrestler's particular finishing hold or move actually ends a match in his favor. The results are based on the following straightforward questions. Several holds and moves ranked last year were not included in this year's poll, while a few questions were added.

39. WHO HAS THE BEST CLOTHESLINE?

Hulk Hogan .....*40% (26%)*
Lex Luger .....*15% (18%)*
The Undertaker .....*14% (2%)*
The Giant .....*10% (0%)*
Others .....*21% (54%)*

One of the most simple, yet devastating moves in the sport, the clothesline can be effective at any point in a match and, if executed at full impact, can end it immediately. Rick Steiner undoubtedly has the best clothesline in the world, but he has been mostly inactive. V.K. Wall Street developed an outstanding clothesline that, too, has been mostly dormant. Hulk Hogan has carried the clothesline to the top and is a deserved number one. The Undertaker's version can be deadly. The Giant's will get better.

40. WHO HAS THE BEST DROPKICK?

Alex Wright .....*22% (0%)*
Rey Misterio Jr .....*19% (0%)*
The Kid .....*18% (33%)*
Eddy Guerrero .....*17% (2%)*
2 Cold Scorpio .....*16% (31%)*
Others .....*8% (34%)*

This classic wrestling maneuver returned to prominence two years ago with the emergence of several young stars, and it has continued its rise. Incredibly, The Kid and 2 Cold Scorpio, the top two finishers last year, were overshadowed by the magnificence of WCW newcomer Alex Wright and AAA/ECW star Rey Misterio Jr. Both of these lightweights get incredible height on their dropkicks and can string together one after another.

Alex Wright dropkicks Brian Pillman

2 Cold Scorpio's moonsault

41. WHO HAS THE BEST MOONSAULT?

2 Cold Scorpio .....*33% (5%)*
Rey Misterio Jr .....*32% (0%)*
Sabu .....*19% (57%)*
The Great Muta .....*10% (0%)*
Big Van Vader .....*6% (38%)*

A high-risk maneuver with incredible fan appeal, the moonsault is executed from the top rope with the wrestler's back facing his fallen opponent. He vaults himself into the air, flips over, and lands on top of the opponent. Some wrestlers, such as Sabu, are willing to execute it from anywhere in an arena and even onto the arena floor. Tremendous turnover in this category, as Sabu began using the moonsault less, and 2 Cold Scorpio used his more. Rey Misterio again had a tremendous showing. Vader has been relying more on power moves lately.

42. WHO HAS THE BEST FLYING BODYPRESS?

Sabu 40% (5%)
Shawn Michaels 30% (2%)
The Kid 10% (18%)
Rey Misterio Jr 8% (0%)
Brian Pillman 7% (15%)
Others 5% (60%)

This magnificently graceful maneuver has been adopted as a showpiece by several aerial stars. Sabu developed his over the past few years and has taken such a liking to the move that he uses it almost as often as the moonsault. Shawn Michaels has tremendous form on his. Once again, a fine showing by Rey Misterio Jr. The Kid has caused a lot of trouble with his version.

43. WHO HAS THE BEST PILEDRIVER?

The Undertaker's "tombstone" piledriver

The Undertaker 80% (79%)
Jerry Lawler 8% (12%)
Jeff Jarrett 5% (0%)
Paul Orndorff 5% (0%)
Others 2% (9%)

The Undertaker calls his the "tombstone" piledriver, and it's so awesome that we can't recall a single wrestler who has gotten up from it. It is the piledriver by which all others must be judged today. "When you see The Undertaker measure up an opponent for the 'tombstone,' you know it's all over," wrote one insider. "You might as well head to the exits." Of course, a properly executed piledriver is almost always a finishing move; Jerry Lawler might have the best of all-time.

44. WHO HAS THE BEST LEGDROP?

Big boot, bodyslam, legdrop, pin. Sound familiar? Well, it's the recipe Hulk Hogan has been using for success for the past 12 years. "The amazing thing about Hogan is that it's his only finishing maneuver," wrote one insider. "He uses it exclusively, and everybody knows it's coming, but there's nothing anybody can do about it, and nobody gets up from it." Diesel is putting a lot more force behind his legdrop. Yokozuna carried his legdrop to two WWF World titles. Rising star Ahmed Johnson might someday return that legdrop-pin combination to the WWF World title picture.

Hulk Hogan 75% (68%)
Diesel 10% (2%)
Yokozuna 9% (11%)
Ahmed Johnson 4% (0%)
Others 2% (19%)

45. WHO HAS THE BEST POWERSLAM?

Ahmed Johnson 29% (0%)
Davey Boy Smith 28% (32%)
Lex Luger 20% (8%)
Big Van Vader 15% (2%)
Others 8% (48%)

A big move for WWF newcomer Ahmed Johnson, who obviously has impressed a lot of important people, judging by the results of the "Best Of The Best." Davey Boy Smith dropped out of the top spot, a surprise considering that he has been been executing it against a higher grade of opposition since turning rulebreaker. Lex Luger has been using his powerslam a lot more frequently, and it leads to most of his victories.

46. WHO HAS THE BEST SCORPION DEATHLOCK/"SHARPSHOOTER"?

Bret Hart 45% (68%)
Sting 44% (6%)
Owen Hart 6% (20%)
Others 5% (6%)

It looks as if we have another WWF vs. WCW dream match on our hands: Bret Hart vs. Sting. Who has the better Scorpion deathlock? Bret Hart's (called the "sharpshooter") is rarely broken; Sting's is occasionally broken. "Bret has won three WWF World titles by using this hold, and if he wanted to, he could have ended a lot of careers," one insider wrote. Sting is using his Scorpion deathlock more and more; he relies upon it as his sole finishing hold. Owen Hart, once an expert at the hold, appears to have lost his focus.

47. WHO HAS THE BEST VERTICAL SUPLEX?

Davey Boy Smith 35% (36%)
Ric Flair 21% (0%)
Hulk Hogan 15% (2%)
Lex Luger 13% (25%)
Brian Christopher 9% (2%)
Others. 7%

It's one of the most sensational moves in the sport. The victim literally has his world turned upside-down. The end always comes next. Davey Boy Smith wins here for the second straight year, but Ric Flair returned and used his suplex, along with some interference, to win his 11th world title in 1995. Hulk Hogan has taken a liking to the suplex in a federation that has forced him to rely more upon scientific moves. Brian Christopher's suplex is often overlooked because he wrestles in an independent federation (the USWA).

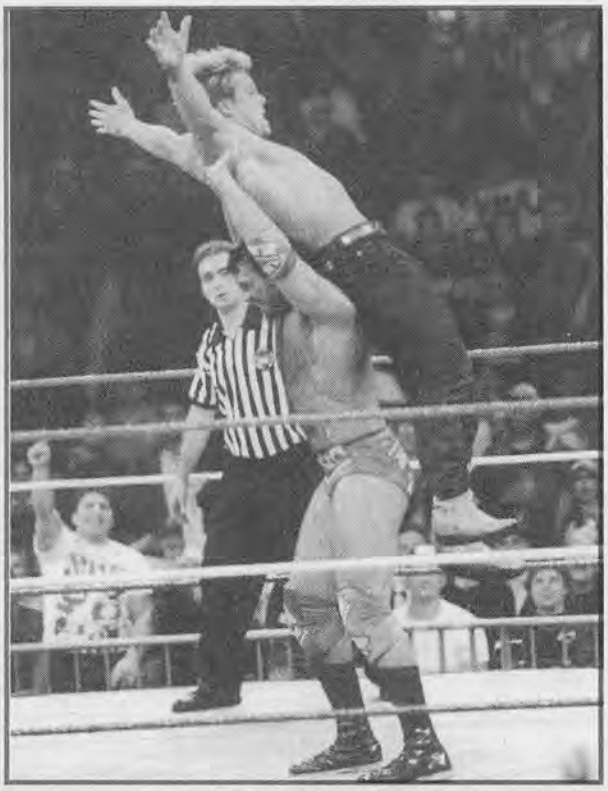
48. WHO HAS THE BEST POWER BOMB?

Big Van Vader 46% (52%)
Diesel 46% (46%)
Sid Vicious 8% (8%)

A dead flat-footed tie in the battle of the power bombs. Obviously, the only way to settle it would be for Diesel and Vader to go one-on-one (and it might happen now that both are in the WWF). Vader lost some ground this year because Hulk Hogan, in a celebrated incident, got up from one of Vader's feared power bombs. That's more to Hogan's credit than to the detriment of Vader. Diesel used his "jackknife" to defend the WWF World title admirably. Nobody looks forward to being the victim of either man's lethal finisher.

49. WHO HAS THE BEST OVERALL FINISHER?

Bret Hart ("sharpshooter") 25% (2%)
The Undertaker ("tombstone" piledriver) . . .22% (2%)
Ahmed Johnson ("Pearl River Plunge") . . .15% (0%)
Razor Ramon ("Razor's Edge") 14% (1%)
Hulk Hogan (legdrop) 13% (12%)
Others 11% (83%)



Ramon's "Razor's Edge"

When Hulk Hogan immediately recovered from the effects of Vader's power bomb last January, the most lethal finishing maneuver in the world suddenly lost a lot of votes. The power bomb, which took the first two spots last year (Vader's and Diesel's), dropped out of the picture and into the "others" category. It was replaced by Bret Hart's "sharpshooter," which few have escaped; it almost always results in victory for "The Hitman." Ahmed Johnson's "Pearl River Plunge" looks like a modified power bomb, and has been called a tiger bomb in the past. All these finishing holds/maneuvers are effective.

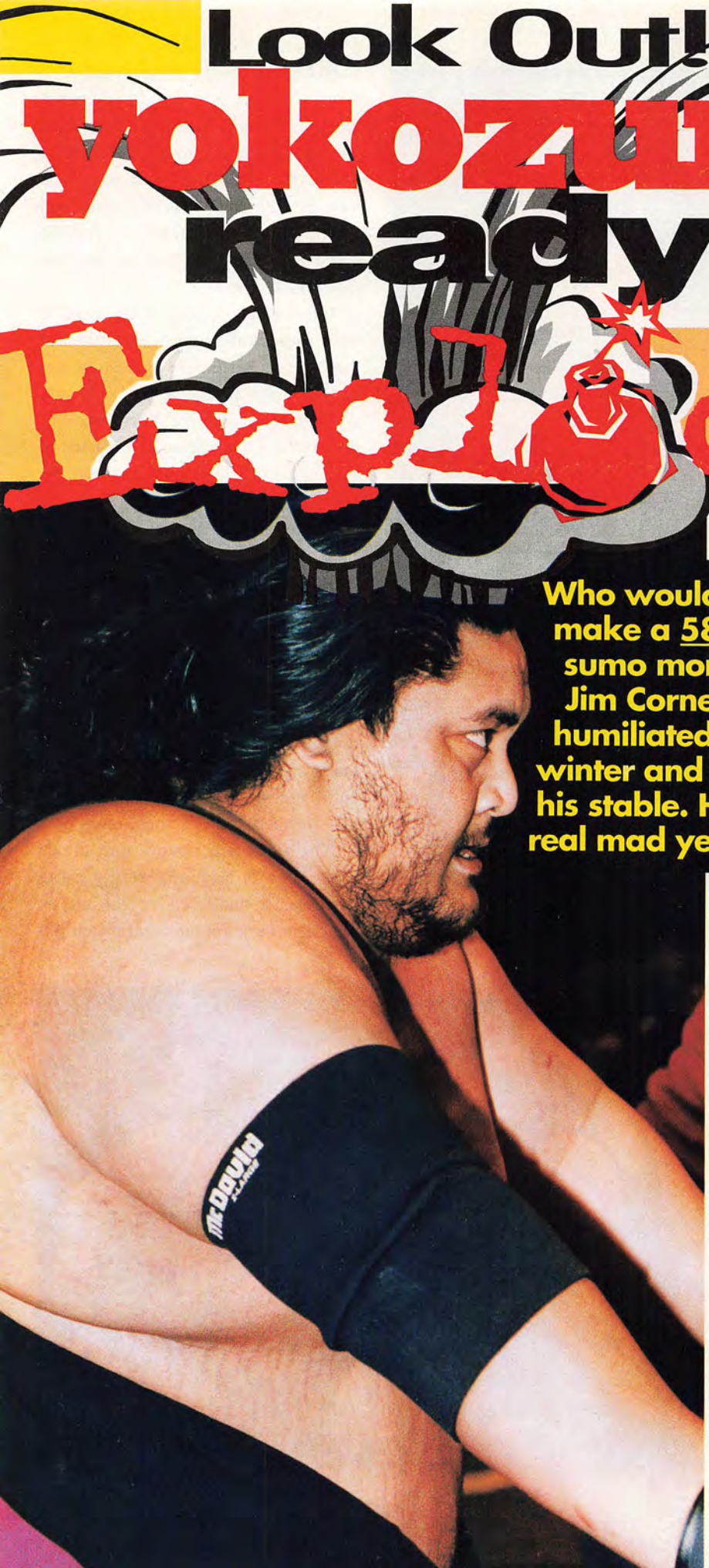
50. WHAT IS WRESTLING'S BEST MANEUVER?

The moonsault 47%
The flying bodypress 22%
The double dropkick 12%
The vertical suplex 11%
Others 8%

Our insiders went for the sensational in this first-time category. "It's magnificent, graceful, artistic—everything you could ask for in a move," wrote one insider. "If you wanted to convince a non-wrestling fan that he should be a wrestling fan, you'd show him the moonsault." □

Look Out!

yokozuna's ready to Explode

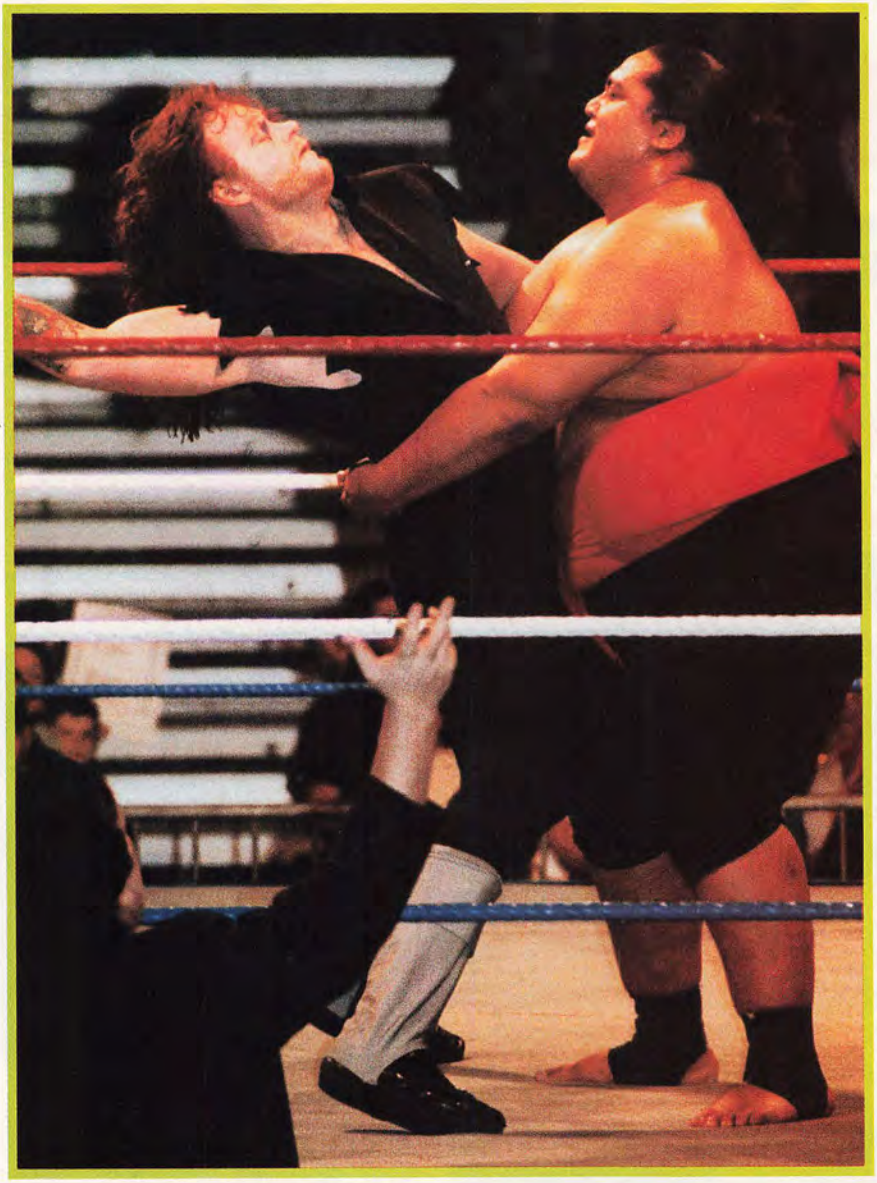


Who would be stupid enough to make a 589-pound Samoan sumo monster angry? Jim Cornette might be. He humiliated Yokozuna this winter and heaved him out of his stable. He hasn't seen Yoko real mad yet, but it's coming ...

By Bryan Ethier

TEN MINUTES UNTIL match time and Yokozuna felt like a Thanksgiving Day parade float gone astray. He looked at his reflection in the locker room mirror and saw a champion dethroned—both literally and emotionally.

The proud Samoan sumo warrior pounds his chest with fists and focuses on the task ahead. Who was he wrestling? He couldn't even recall. It didn't matter, because at least he was his own man now. If he still allowed Jim Cornette to make decisions for him, the only opponents Yokozuna would face would be second-rate



Yokozuna hasn't been able to beat The Undertaker (above) in a long time, and his problems with former tag team partner Owen Hart started many months ago (right). Now, however, Yoko could be a big problem for Jim Cornette.

scrappers devoid of any ring talent.

Yes, to his former boss, Yokozuna had become just another ex-champ, incapable of making him any money, and unable to win another WWF World title.

All Cornette's fault, Yokozuna mused, trying to convince himself. Granted, early this year, word around the WWF was that Cornette, then the manager of Yoko, had lost interest in his two-time WWF champ and former tag team king.

"That's an evaluation without basis," Cornette responded. "If he would have listened to me, he could have been a champion again. But the tub o' lard never paid attention to my instructions. That's okay, though, because when you have two thoroughbreds like Owen and Davey Boy in your stable, it's hard to invest your time and effort in a lumbering cow like him."

Harsh words for one of the WWF's most successful grapplers over the last three years. A stinging evaluation that has left Yoko speechless. Now it is only a matter of time before Yokozuna simply explodes, unleashing 589 pounds of fury upon Cornette and others in the WWF community.

"There is no reason for Yokozuna to feel like I betrayed him," Cornette added. "I'm glad he left, because these are the facts: Since he and Owen lost the tag team belts to those buffalo chip-eating cowboys, The Smokin' Gunns, they didn't show any harmony in the ring. And as a singles wrestler, Yokozuna doesn't have the stamina to go the distance against The Undertaker or Bret Hart, and that's pathetic. *He betrayed me!* The facts speak for themselves."

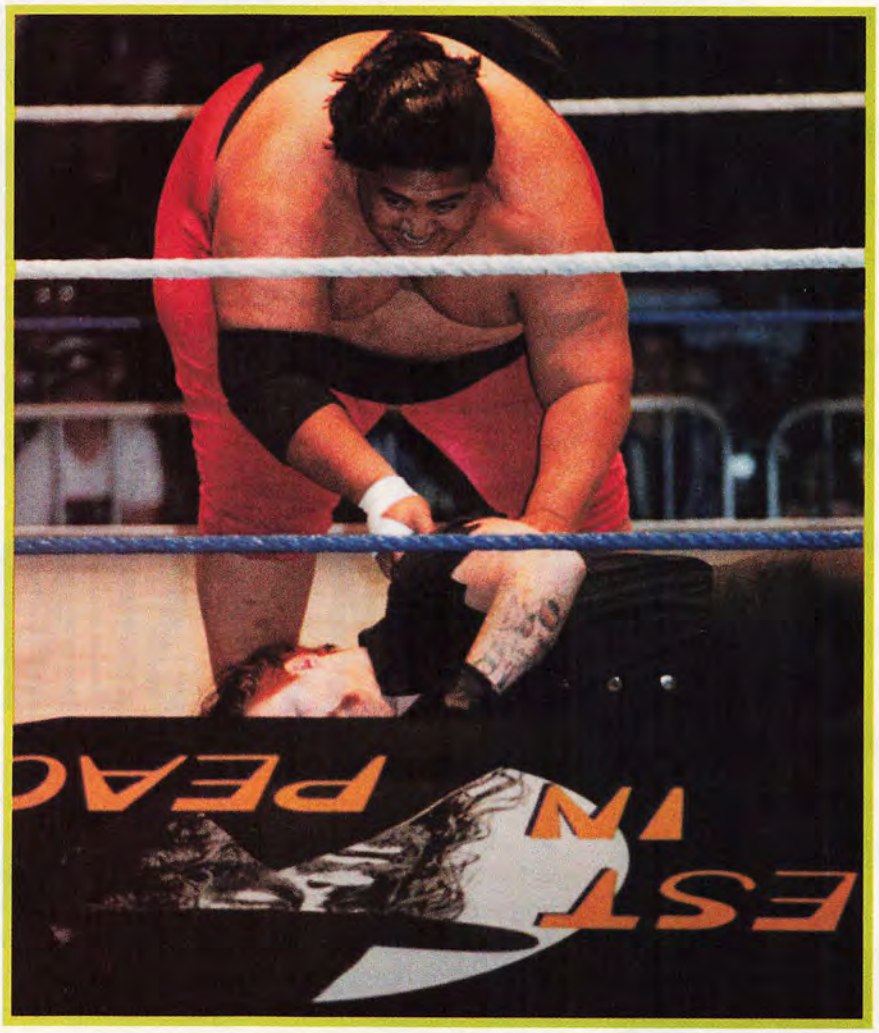
The facts are simple and clear: Yokozuna is now apparently a fan favorite. He and Cornette got into an argument during a tag team match pit-

Precious few wrestlers have the strength to scoop up 589-pound Yoko and bodyslam him. His girth is his greatest asset, and he'll surely be able to use it just as effectively against rulebreakers as he did against fan favorites.

ting him and Smith against Diesel and Shawn Michaels in January. When Yoko slugged Cornette, Owen entered the ring and helped his manager and Davey Boy pummel him. Yokozuna was left in the ring alone, and the fans were cheering for him!

Now that doesn't exactly leave Cornette with a weak stable of wrestlers. He still has Owen and Davey Boy, both of whom are committed to winning singles titles in the WWF. And he now has under contract one Big Van Vader, a three-time former *WCW* World champion. But if Cornette does anything to anger Yokozuna further, the big man will almost certainly come after the manager and all three of his charges.

"I've seen Yoko get angry before—real angry," said former WWF World tag team champion Afa, Yokozuna's uncle. "My nephew and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye, but I know him well. Since he split with Cornette, he looks confused. He doesn't know who



Perhaps big Yoko spent too much time trying to beat Undertaker in casket matches. It's time he started going after title matches more aggressively again. Cornette hadn't been helping him in that area.

his friends are or where his career is headed. We haven't seen a really angry Yoko yet, but when we do, everybody better run for cover, especially Cornette."

But therein lies Yokozuna's current dilemma. Does he immediately focus on building a career as a fan favorite, or does he try to satisfy his ego by exact-

(Continued on page 76)

press conference...

The *original* Bodydonnas: Sunny and Skip. Sunny expected her man to have an immediate impact on the WWF, then realized after he went into a slump that he'd be better off with a partner. That's where Zip came in.

TAMMY "SUNNY" FYTCH

WHEN TAMMY FYTCH entered professional wrestling as a manager in the now-defunct Smoky Mountain Wrestling in 1993, she proclaimed that this was the beginning of an era in which women would dominate a sport previously monopolized by men. With an arsenal of talented wrestlers, Fytch, who tried to emulate her hero, Hillary Rodham Clinton, quickly made an impact.

When she and her crown jewel, Chris Candido, entered the WWF last year, they both went through a startling metamorphosis. She became Sunny. He became Skip. Both proclaimed themselves fitness gurus known as The Bodydonnas. Sunny shed the business attire in favor of Spandex. Maybe Skip was too distracted, because before long, he began losing match after match to long-suffering preliminary wrestler Barry Horowitz.

The initial slump did not deter Sunny, however. Feeling that Skip needed a tag team partner, she went on a manhunt. She toyed with the idea of making Rad Radford a Bodydonna, but that didn't work, and Skip's troubles continued.

Sunny's savior came in the form of former Heavenly Body Tom Prichard, who was rechristened Zip. They immediately jelled into an effective team. Sunny seized the opportunity and secured WWF tag team title matches for her men. And though they came up short in their initial title matches, the new Bodydonnas are quickly gaining respect in a lackluster pool of WWF tag team talent.

Managing Editor Dave Lenker, Associate Editor Brandi Mankiewicz, and Senior Writer Steve Anderson sat down with Sunny after an independent show in New Jersey. She talked about her new team, Skip's recent victory over Ray Odyssey for the Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling U.S. title, and much more.

STEVE ANDERSON: Welcome, Sunny. I think I speak for all of us when I say congratulations on the success you've had lately. What with Skip winning the PCW U.S. title and he and Zip being top contenders for the WWF tag team title.

SUNNY: ***(Sarcastically)*** **Gee, that really means a lot. I always knew I would do it. Was there ever any doubt? I can take the roughest coal and turn it into a shimmering diamond—not that Skip and Zip are coal or anything.**

"I have proven that I am more than just good looks and a great body. I've got a mind that will lead The Bodydonnas through the stratosphere of the WWF!"

DAVE LENKER: So how did you get Zip into your camp, anyway?

SUNNY: He got a chance to be half of what will be the greatest tag team in WWF history, and he got a chance to be around me. Isn't that enough, genius? Skip needed something. He needed a tag team partner. Zip complements him perfectly in the ring. You can see that.

BRANDI MANKIEWICZ: They do look pretty good.

SUNNY: Anyway, I'll admit Skip was in a funk. He needed support. And what better support than from Zip?

MANKIEWICZ: And you're doing your best to help them at ringside. Every match I see, you're there in a skimpy outfit, trying to distract the referee or Skip and Zip's opponents. If Skip and Zip are so good, then they shouldn't need your distractions.

SUNNY: If you've got it, honey, flaunt it, and I got it.

MANKIEWICZ: But when you came into this sport, you came in as someone who demanded respect for all women on their own merits. Has this changed?

SUNNY: Nothing has changed. I still stand up for the rights of women to use every asset that God has given them. My assets are my ability to find talented wrestlers and manage them to the very top.

LENKER: It took a little while with Skip, though. He didn't exactly set the WWF on fire when he first got there.

SUNNY: Jealousy, pure jealousy. We came into that federation of overrated endomorphs as the true examples of fitness. We made all those so-called athletes look like couch potatoes. We were treated poorly.

ANDERSON: But losing to Barry Horowitz? That happened a half-dozen times.

SUNNY: Horowitz was lucky. Plain lucky. We didn't underestimate him. He didn't have the talent or reputation for even that consideration.

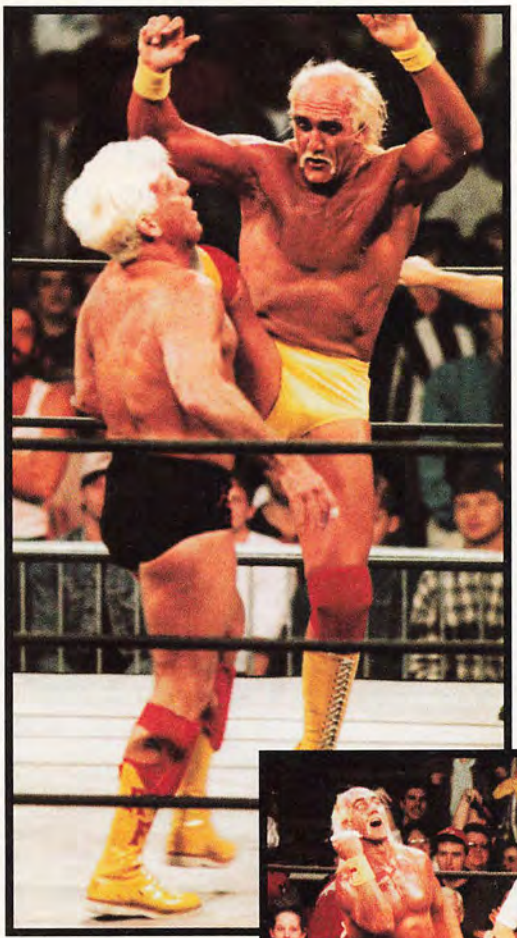
MANKIEWICZ: But not only did those wins over Skip make him a contender, it led to him being voted Inspirational Wrestler of the Year by our readers.

SUNNY: You ask the majority of readers what they'd rather see in a magazine, Horowitz's ugly face, flabby body, and spindly arms holding that cheap plaque, or a Bodydonna cover and centerfold.

(Continued on page 64)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

Say What You Want, The Bottom Line Is This:



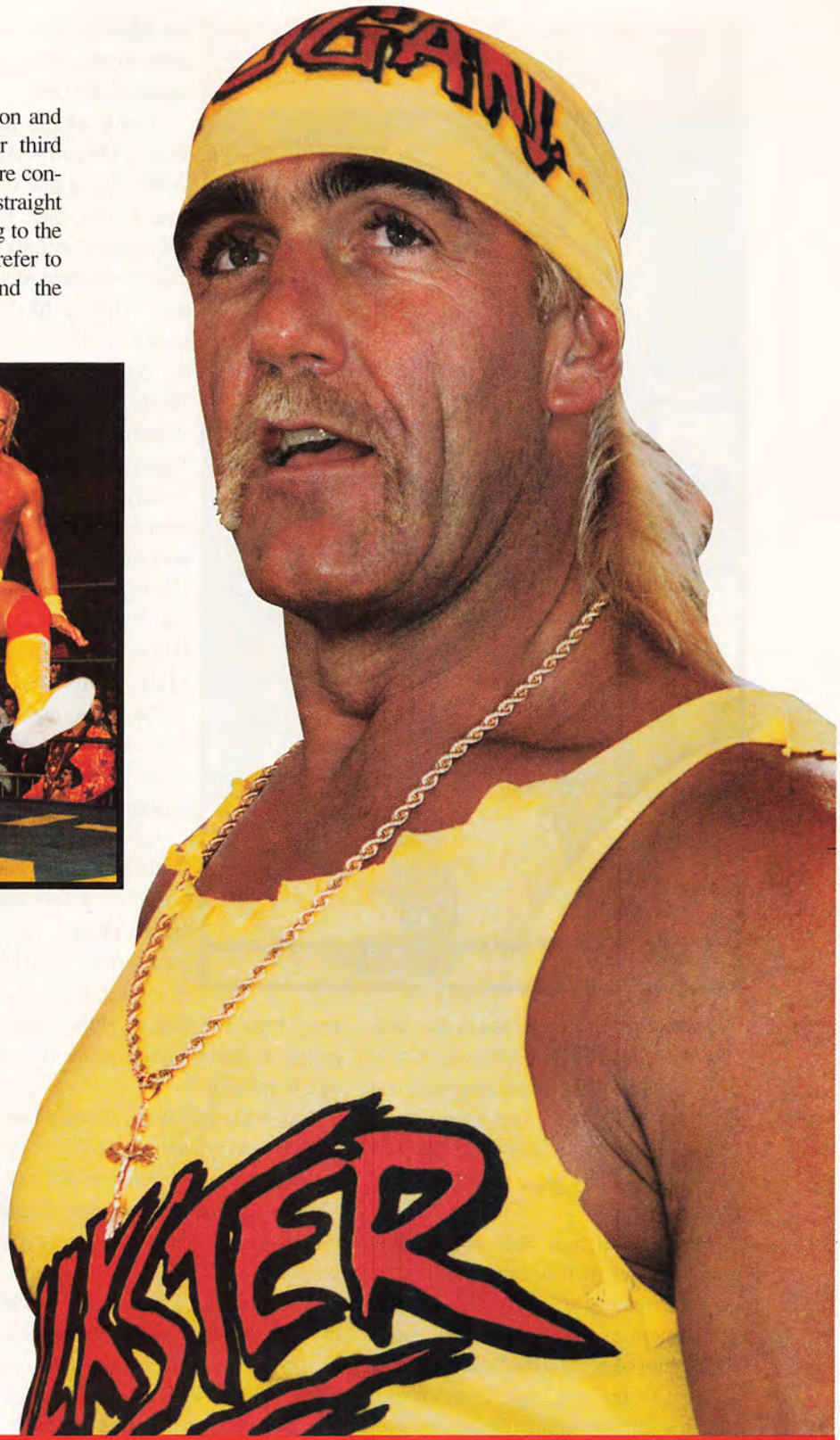
Hogan has driven his boot into Ric Flair's jaw time and again (above), crushed former pals such as Brutus Beefcake with his legdrop (above right), and left The Four Horsemen begging for mercy (right). Are these the feats of a *loser?*

The critics who never give the "Hulkster" his due must be looking at someone else's record. If there's so much wrong with Hogan, how come he keeps on winning ... and winning ...

HULK HOGAN

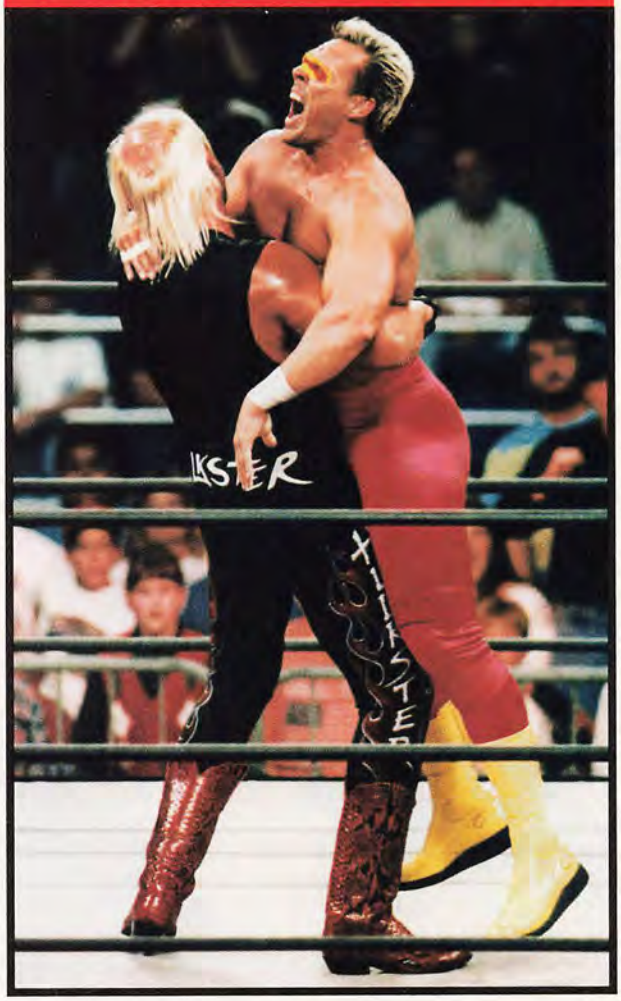
By Bill Apter

IT'S FUNNY HOW people define domination and dynasties. The Dallas Cowboys won their third Super Bowl in four years in 1996, and they're considered a dynasty. The Chicago Bulls won three straight NBA World championships and were, according to the experts, a "dominant" team. In hockey, people refer to the dynasties of the New York Islanders and the Edmonton Oilers.



IS A WINNER!

One rap against Hogan is that he can't keep up with good scientific wrestlers. Sting's a pretty good scientific wrestler, and Hogan held his own against him in their one match to date.



Hulk Hogan makes them all look silly. His greatness has transcended and overlapped all other sports dynasties, and from early-1984 to the present, no single team or individual in any sport has won more consistently than the "Hulkster" has.

People knock him. They say Hogan is more brawler than wrestler and was a lazy champion who rarely defended his title. Enemies and former confidants accuse him of being a backstabber who's only out for his own good. Even some of Hogan's admirers admit that he's an egotist. But why shouldn't he be?

Deion Sanders dances, but at the big dance, Hogan is king. Mike Tyson was supposedly unbeatable, but he was knocked flat on his butt by a stiff named Buster Douglas. Then he was sent directly to jail without collecting $200. In tennis, Monica Seles can't seem to scratch an itch named Steffi Graf.

Think about this: When Hogan's first WWF World title reign ended after more than four years, it took an impostor referee to stop him. Hogan has not been cleanly pinned in the center of the ring since The Ultimate Warrior did it in 1990! That's six years! He has clearly dominated his feud with Ric Flair and sent the 12-time world champion into retirement. Sure, it was Hogan who helped get Flair reinstated in WCW last spring, but in their one-on-one battles since, Hogan has again dominated.

Go ahead. Find a battle that Hogan hasn't won, or a test he hasn't passed. Find just one active wrestler who can say, "I got the best of Hulk Hogan plenty of times" and has the videotape to prove it.

Say what you want. Bottom line: Hulk Hogan is a winner.

"Right," a detractor might say. "And when was the last time Hogan wrestled and beat a scientific wrestler?"

Ric Flair and Ted DiBiase, two of the outstanding scientific wrestlers of all-time, are right near the top of Hogan's list of victims.

"How about the 30-day rule?" another detractor might add. "Hogan broke it so many times when he held a world title that I lost count!"

Okay, so Hogan didn't defend the belt nearly often enough during his WCW World title reign. And his WWF schedule of about one defense per week was a contributing factor to his long title reigns. Nobody will ever confuse Hogan with Bret Hart, who seemingly defends the WWF World title every day and twice on Sundays.

But Hogan never wrestled bums and always, at some point, wrestled the top contenders. The experts said he couldn't beat Andre the Giant. The experts were wrong. The experts said King Kong Bundy was too big for him. In retrospect, that turned out to be a big joke. And how about Big Van Vader? Until Hogan came along, Vader was the most feared man in wrestling, a crippler who had hospitalized and nearly crippled dozens of opponents.

Hogan turned Vader into a pussycat.

"I still can't believe what he did to Vader," Sting said. "I mean, it's unbelievable. Vader was beatable, I proved that, but he was just this incredible force who kept you from sleeping at night. Every wrestler in the federation feared Vader's power bomb. Then Hulk comes along, actually gets power-bombed, then gets right up. Vader lost his aura of invincibility right then and there, and I

Hogan effectively destroyed the aura of invincibility that was hanging around Big Van Vader when he humbled him in a series of matches in 1995. The "Hulkster" drained some of the power out of his power bomb.

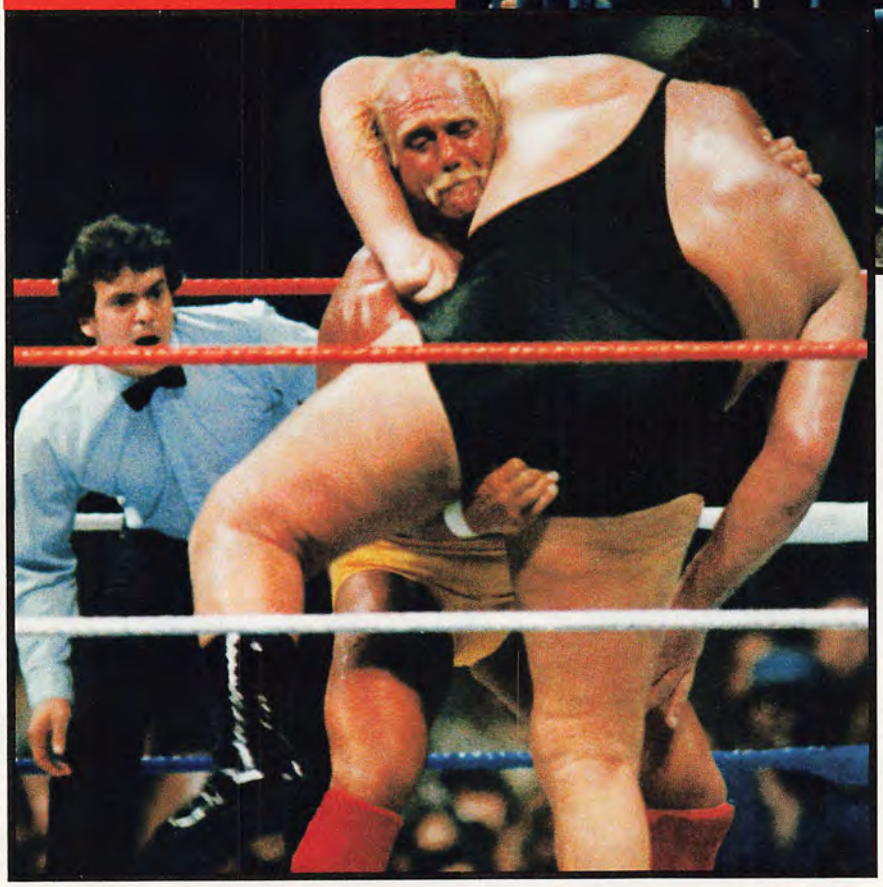
gained a whole new respect for Hulk then and there."

As if he didn't respect him all along.

"The object of wrestling is to win and win championships," Sting said. "That's the only thing a man should be judged by. It's not how you win, as long as you do it legally. Hey, in basketball they give you two points for a dunk and the same two points for a jump shot. Hulk has always won. I don't see how anyone can question him."

Neither can Hogan, who has pinned his toughest opponents, but never seems able to silence his loudest critics.

"I hear them talking all the time," Hogan said. "You'd think they would've shut up by now. But millions of 'Hulkamaniacs' all over the world have supported me for years and years, brother. They know what I've done. I don't have to blow my own horn. The record speaks for itself. Anyone who doubts that doesn't know what they're talking about, brother."



Who could ever forget how Hogan systematically destroyed two giants in the WWF, the legendary Andre the Giant (below), and mammoth King Kong Bundy (right)? WCW's Giant had better watch out!

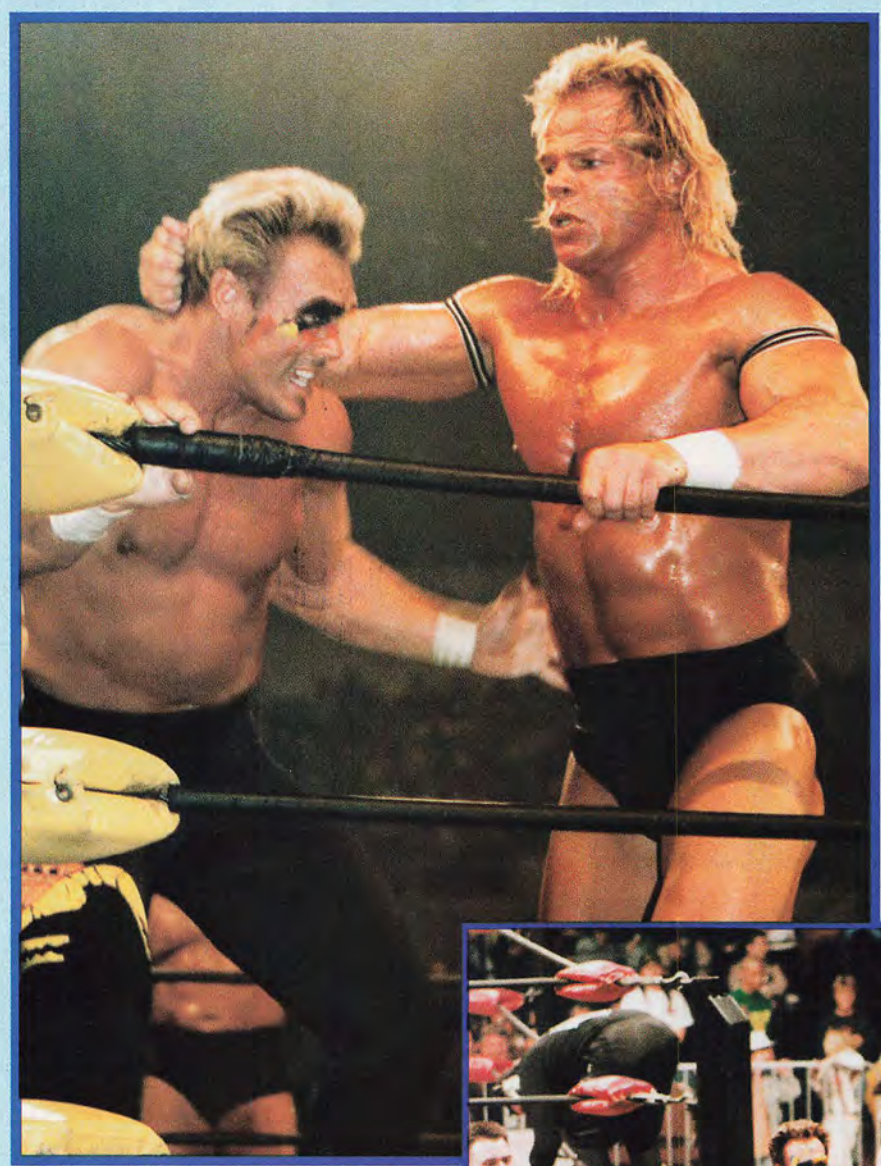
Hogan obviously has a point. Ten years ago, his harshest critics questioned his stamina and ability to go the distance in marathon matches. The fact is, Hogan's matches don't last long because nobody can go the distance with him, and as 1996 wears on, Hogan is still a dominant factor in WCW. That's stamina!

There is no doubting his record. There is no doubting his influence upon the sport.

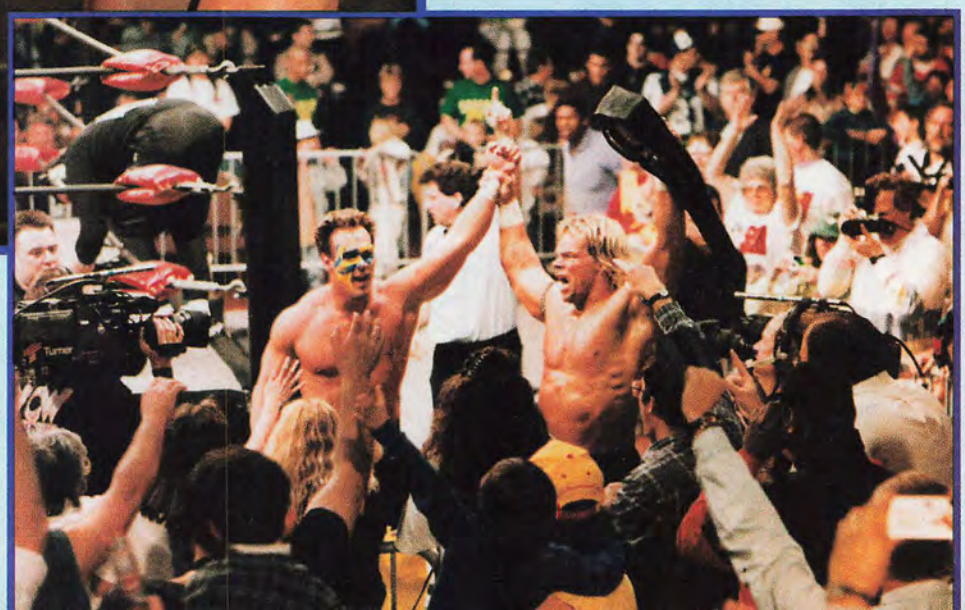
By any measure, Hulk Hogan is a one-man wrestling dynasty.

Rocky Past, Uncertain

STING AND LUGER'S



An age-old adage says that opposites attract. Rulebreaker Lex Luger and fan favorite Sting are successful in part because of each other. But they might be WCW World tag team champions in spite of each other



Let's not forget that the Luger-Sting friendship was put aside as recently as Starrcade '95, when they did battle in a triangle match (above). Don't expect them to hold those WCW tag belts high much longer (right).

Future:

FATAL ATTRACTION

By Steve Anderson

FELIX UNGER AND Oscar Madison, TV's Odd Couple, couldn't stay together. Liz Taylor and Richard Burton divorced twice. And we all know the fate of Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley. There are partnerships in this world that just aren't destined to work.

So what's Sting and Lex Luger's secret?

Wrestling has had its share of odd couples over the years. Yokozuna and Owen Hart. Sid and The Kid. Jimmy Garvin and Steve Regal. Michael Hayes and Steve Cox. Michael Hayes and Otis Sistrunk. Michael Hayes and … well, we digress.

On the surface, Sting and Luger, the reigning WCW World tag team champions, have all the qualities of a dream team. But they are a lot like an onion: As you peel away one layer, you'll find more and more layers underneath. Sting has been a fan favorite since very early in his career. Luger's attitude changes with the wind or whenever opportunities are presented to him. Case in point: In September of last year, he promised Hulk Hogan he could trust him. In October, he turned against him. Yet he and Sting remain together.

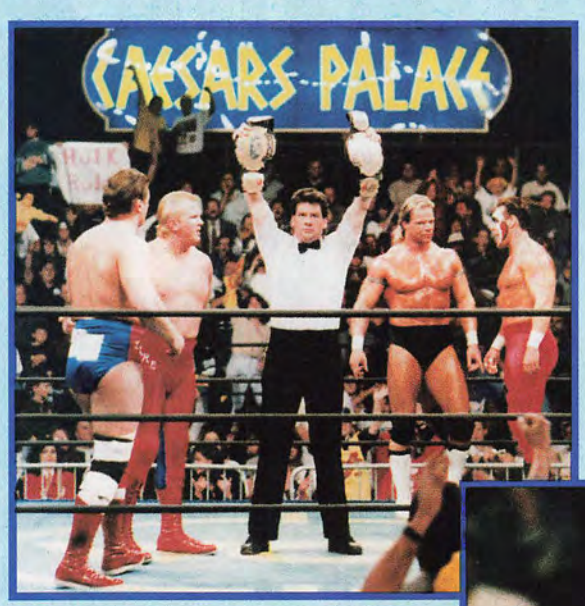
"Luger hasn't been totally right in the head lately," Sting said in defense of his friend. "I can't walk out on him now. I'm standing behind him instead of facing him in the ring."

If a comprehensive wrestling history book is ever written, there will likely be an entire chapter devoted to the dysfunctional relationship between Sting and Luger—a long one. Both

On the night they won the WCW tag title, both Sting (above) and Luger (below) had moments when they were totally dominant against Harlem Heat. If they could somehow stick together, they could be one of the all-time great duos.

broke into wrestling in the mid-1980s. Both represented a new era of wrestlers—powerful, but not slow, awkward, or lumbering. Both were tagged as future world champions.

But while their careers initially went in similar directions, Sting and Luger were on totally different paths. It wasn't until the 1988 Crockett Cup when their business and personal relationship jelled. They won both the tournament and each other's respect. In doing so, they forged a partnership that would have many twists and turns.



All was well between Sting and Luger before their first title defense, against The Blue Bloods (above), and Sting looked great against Lord Steven Regal (right), but you wonder how long it will be before their personal agendas get in the way of their success ... again!

The first erosion of their relationship occurred in 1989, when Luger turned against Rick Steamboat. Sting tried to ignore his friend's arrogance and new rulebreaking ways, but when it became unbearable for the "Stinger," the first feud between the two friends was born. Months later, Sting was injured by The Four Horsemen as he was making a run at the NWA World championship. Who was there to defend him? None other than Lex Luger.

"I proved to Sting then that I was his friend," Luger recalled. "I gave up title shots to save his career."

On July 14, 1991, Luger finally won the WCW World heavyweight title, but he lost the respect of his friends (including Sting) and the fans when he allied himself with manager Harley Race. Once again, the two friends were at odds. The resulting feud came to a head in February of 1992 when Sting beat Luger for the very title that broke them up. Shortly thereafter, Luger packed his bags and headed for the WWF.

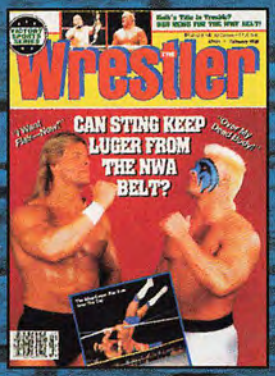
"I didn't think things with Sting would ever be the same after that," said Luger. "Him beating me for the World title just devastated me. It was a major factor in my decision to leave WCW."

For about three years after that, the two men competed in rival promotions. Sting won another WCW World title and two U.S. titles. Luger languished in the WWF. He even tried transforming himself from the rulebreaking "Narcissist" into "Made In The U.S.A." Lex Luger. While success in the WWF eluded him (he never won a title there), he later patched things up with Sting.

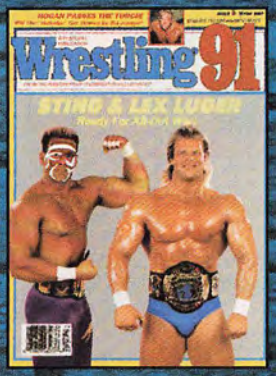
"Distance between us was the best thing for us," said Sting. "We realized that we were always better as friends. We vowed to never battle again."

Luger's surprise return to WCW on Labor Day 1995 turned heads. Many questioned his intentions. Sting couldn't have been happier. His best friend was back where he belonged. When Luger turned against Hogan, many felt that the Sting-Luger battles would resume. But Sting showed forgiveness and understanding. He defended his cohort and almost came to blows with both Hogan and Savage because of it.

Wrestling 88
LEX LUGER OR STING?
You Decide: Who Should Win The "Future World Champion" Trophy?
CROSSFIRE: THE ROAD WARRIORS
WHO IS THE ULTIMATE MANAGER FOR THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR?



Wrestler
That title belt should be around my waist!
Lex is my friend, he'll watch out for me.
THE LUGER-STING RIVALRY: READY TO EXPLODE AGAIN!



Lex Luger and Sting's tumultuous relationship has made headlines in our family of magazines for several years. With such a stormy history, one would think another meltdown is inevitable.

But what is most bizarre about the latest chapter of this bizarre relationship is that Sting and Luger actually won the WCW tag team title together. Unfortunately, this rocky relationship doesn't figure to get any smoother because of it. Winning the title was one thing. If they're to keep it for a long time, they must be able to trust each other implicitly. Sting and Luger's philosophical differences will inevitably cost them that title and probably their friendship. They have been willing to battle each other before, and they will probably have to battle again.

There is also the Hart factor. Jimmy Hart is Lex Luger's manager ... sometimes. It was Hart who handed Luger the roll of coins that he used to smash Harlem Heat's Booker T before he pinned him to win the tag team title. Sting will have nothing to do with "The Mouth Of The South." And he would probably never choose a partnership with Hart over a friendship with Hogan.

"It's not about choosing," said Luger. "Sting and I have a personal relationship. Jimmy and I have a business arrangement, nothing more."

So Luger thinks this twisted relationship is working out fine, that he and Sting will never come to blows again. But they will. Sting still fights for what is right. Luger is an opportunist who would sell out anyone for money and personal glory.

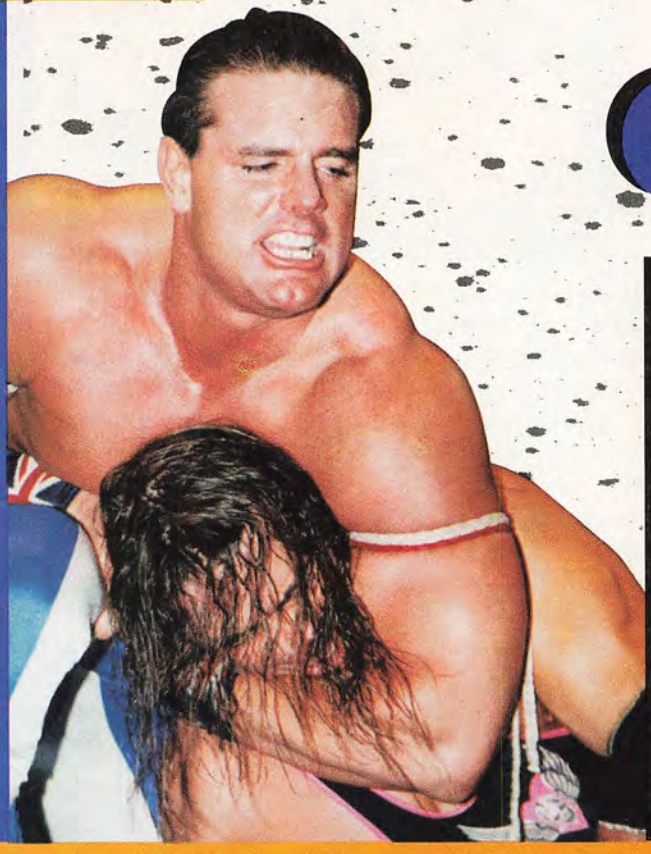
"You reporters write what you want," Sting said. "My friend Lex and I are the champs. History will show that I was right to stand by him."

But if history is the best indicator, he better prepare himself for Luger-Sting III. It's coming soon to an arena near you. □

Will Luger always be there to help when Sting gets unmercifully double-teamed (left)? Or he will he soon be "racking" up Sting the way he "racked" up one of The Super Assassins in January (right)? History says the latter.

PWI Investigation

OWEN



Oh, brother! Just when you thought the Bret Hart-Owen Hart feud was over, Owen comes up with another scheme to try to ruin "The Hitman." This time, he's getting help from someone very close to him

By Bryan Ethier

THE BELEAGUERED MAN tipped his billed leather cap over his brow and stuffed a scarf inside his rain-soaked denim jacket. Ah … early-spring in Calgary.

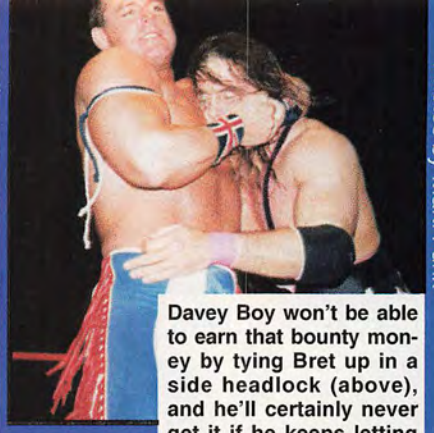
He emerged anonymously from the seedy all-night coffee shop and stepped into the predawn mist. But it wasn't the chill that got under this man's skin; it was his predicament. It was the lack of support and allies. Didn't anyone want to help him lasso the villain?

Owen Hart knew he'd have a titanic struggle before him when he decided to serve his brand of justice to his brother Bret. He thought his brothers would offer some support, but he was certain that Mom and Dad, Helen and Stu Hart, would cringe at the thought of a Cain and Abel scenario playing itself out in their family, with Cain stalking Abel throughout the wrestling world.

That's why Owen Hart had a plan, and he had a reward for the family member bold enough to take out Bret. Yes, *take out* Bret Hart. You see, Owen Hart offered the apple of sin: cold cash. He recently put a cash bounty on the head of his brother Bret, and he let everyone in the family know that only they could take him up on it—no outsiders. That, Owen figured, would be the best way to sway some of his brothers over to his side. But just days after the Royal Rumble, only brother-in-law Davey Boy Smith accepted the bounty hunter's offer.

Since Owen offered the bounty,

Reveals: OFFERS FAMILY BOUNTY ON BRET!



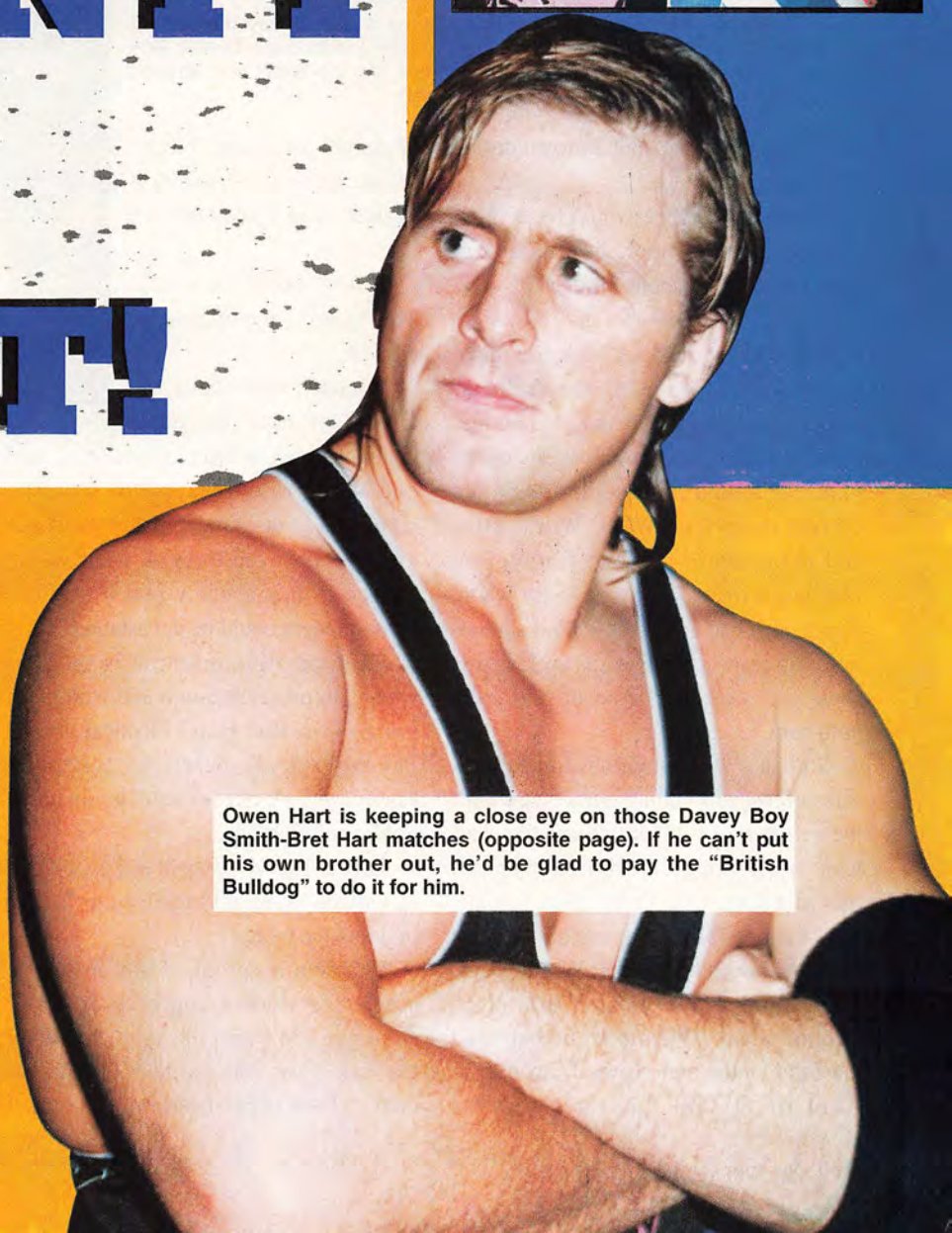
Photos by Marti Funk

Davey Boy won't be able to earn that bounty money by tying Bret up in a side headlock (above), and he'll certainly never get it if he keeps letting "The Hitman" outwrestle him (below).

every family member has spurned him as if he were a leper. That ticked him off. Sure, Owen would have liked his family to rally around him, but he figured he might alienate a brother or two. Wrong! He alienated everyone … except Davey Boy. The rest rallied around good brother Bret.

I'll have my day, Owen Hart thought. *It won't be long before Calgary and the world carry me to my rightful place on the Hart throne.*

With that conviction firmly in mind, Owen Hart slinked his way downtown. No one recognized the scruffy face, the long, sandy locks, the look of intensity and pain in his eyes. On this early morning, he was as anonymous as a stranger



Owen Hart is keeping a close eye on those Davey Boy Smith-Bret Hart matches (opposite page). If he can't put his own brother out, he'd be glad to pay the "British Bulldog" to do it for him.

Just as the Owen-Bret feud seems to be dying down, Davey Boy's hunt to collect Owen's bounty is intensifying (above). Although Davey Boy has come close to beating his brother-in-law for the WWF title several times, Bret has always come out on top (right).

passing through just another town during a westward journey.

Soon, however, he would be as notorious as a cattle thief; but his quarry would be one villainous brother ...

* * *

While Owen Hart sat back and impatiently waited for the "British Bulldog" to put his devious scheme into action, Smith pondered the ramifications of the plan. He would be bringing down the current three-time WWF World titlist and champion of the Hart family. Bret Hart was a man and a wrestler for whom Smith once had great respect and admiration. But respect rarely earns you the title shots you crave. And it never gets you a gold belt.

So that's why Smith has turned himself into pseudo-bounty hunter. It wasn't the money that sold him. It was the challenge of knocking Bret off his lofty perch that sent a chill up Davey Boy's spine. And the possibility that he, the "British Bulldog," would be WWF World champion. Smith hadn't beaten Bret since SummerSlam 1992, when he captured the Intercontinental crown from him in front of 80,000 fans at London's Wembley Stadium. Worse, of late, he seemed powerless against "The Excellence Of Execution."

But it would soon end. The bounty would guarantee that.

"Quietly, Davey Boy and Owen Hart have devised an ingenious plan to bring down Bret," said one WWF rulebreaker. "In fact, the scheme is so devious, it makes me shake in my boots even to think what would happen if they actually pull it off. The consequences could be devastating!"

The operative question is this: To what extremes will Smith and Hart go to bring down Bret Hart? Physical abuse? Psychological warfare? Broken kneecaps? A career-ending injury? Public humiliation?

Is Bret Hart's safety at stake, and if it is, will the WWF undertake an investigation into the matter?

"There's no proof of any nefarious acts in the works," confirmed a WWF employee. "We hear this type of stuff all the time. How can you take Owen seriously? Bret *is* his brother, after all. I know how bitter he is about being second to Bret, but to think he actually would pay someone else to injure his brother and start devising all these schemes is ludicrous. The 'British Bulldog' as executioner? I know he has had a change in personality since aligning with Jim Cornette, but let's be reasonable here."

Of course, the only flaw in that logic is that there is nothing reasonable about Owen Hart. Now, with the dissolution of his tag team partnership with Yokozuna, Owen has no partner and few friends other than Smith. In fact, his only real ally (the one he hasn't bought) is bitterness.

"The blood feud quieted during Owen and Yoko's reign as tag team champs," said Bruce Hart. "At least Owen seemed to have a legitimate purpose in the squared circle. But when Bret won the World belt for a third time, and The Smokin' Gunns regained the tag team title, well, Owen just snapped again. Face it, he'll never get through this deep-seated anger until he feels he has outdone Bret and made his life totally miserable. What he is doing now is ... I don't know ... almost unforgivable."

So now the bounty hunter sits back and waits for his paid deputy to bring the villain back home.

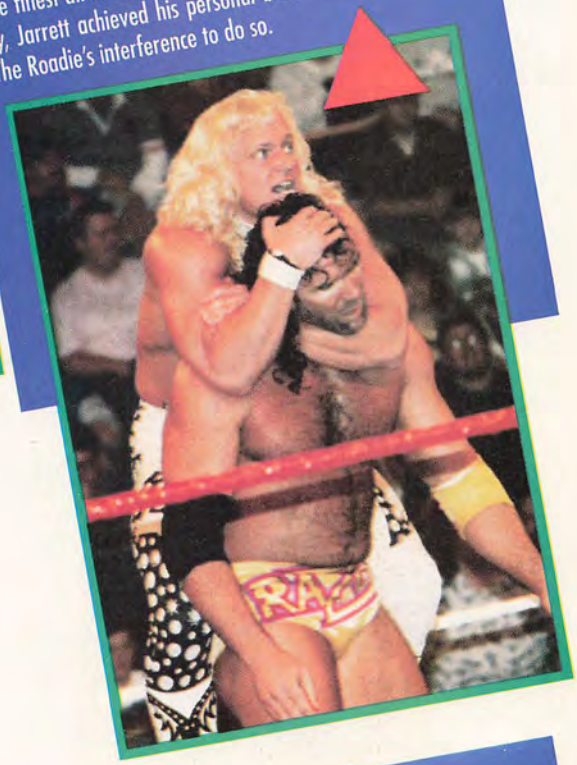
Meanwhile, Bret Hart focuses on retaining the WWF World title, utterly unaware of the evil plan being devised to precipitate his demise. □

FAVORITE HOLD

Figure-four leglock. Jarrett's version is almost exactly like the one used by 12-time world champion Ric Flair. Jarrett is expert at setting up an opponent for this painful submission hold and only occasionally has it reversed. Like Flair, "Double-J" is an expert at grabbing the ropes while the referee isn't looking to add a little extra leverage to the hold.

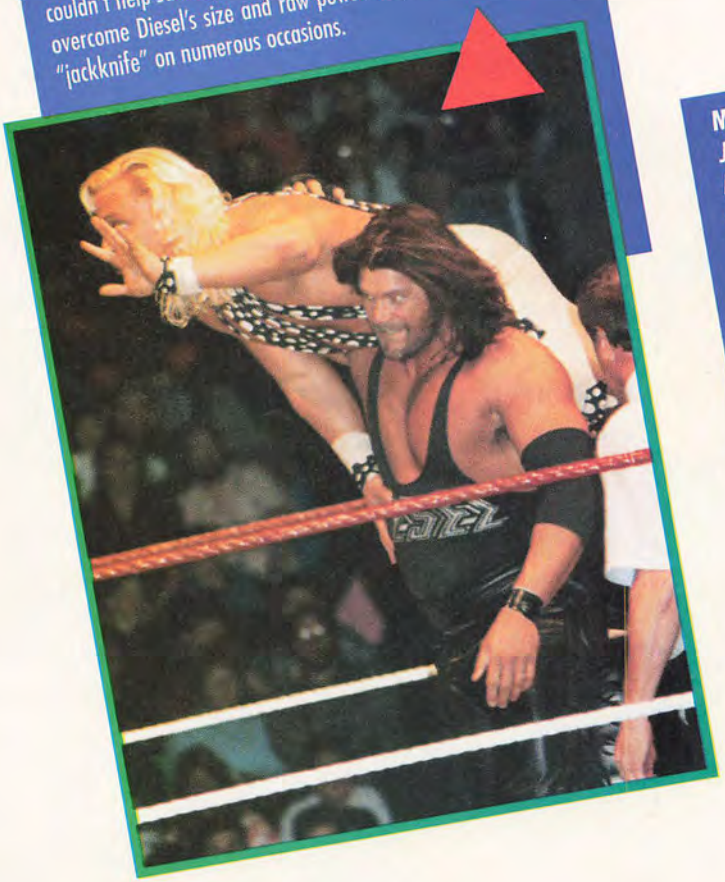
GREATEST MATCH

vs. Razor Ramon, January 22, 1995. Jarrett's victory over Ramon for the WWF Intercontinental title at the 1995 Royal Rumble verified what Jarrett—and many observers—had known for a long time: that he is one of the finest all-around wrestlers in the world. With this victory, Jarrett achieved his personal best. Too bad he needed The Roadie's interference to do so.



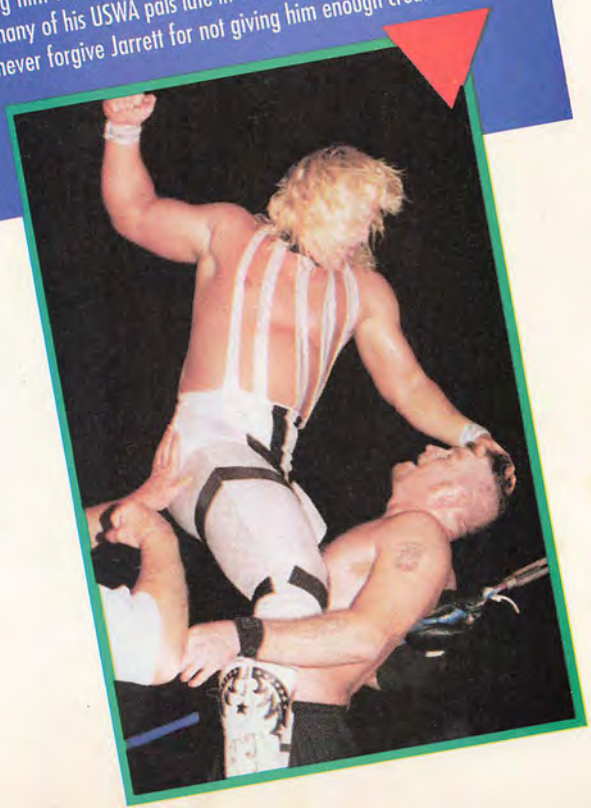
TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Diesel. While he was I-C champ early in 1995, Jarrett came close to beating Diesel for the WWF World title on several occasions, but he never quite got over the top. Even The Roadie's interference couldn't help Jarrett, whose scientific expertise wasn't enough to overcome Diesel's size and raw power. He fell victim to Diesel's "jackknife" on numerous occasions.



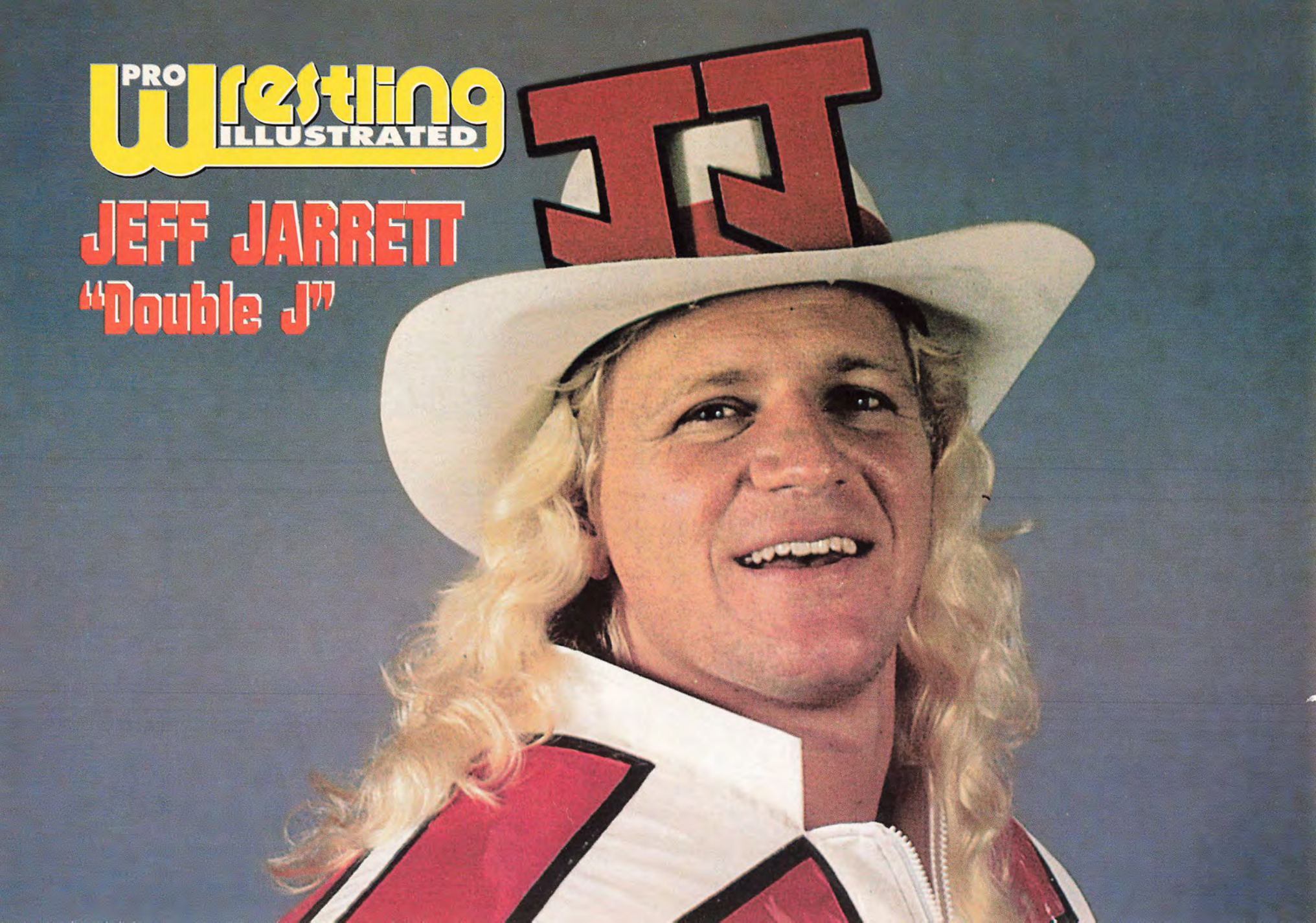
MOST HATED OPPONENT

Jesse James Armstrong. Once partners in crime in the WWF, Armstrong (formerly The Roadie) and Jarrett are now bitter enemies in the USWA. Jarrett will never forgive Armstrong for costing him the WWF Intercontinental title last July or for attacking many of his USWA pals late in 1995 and in 1996. Armstrong will never forgive Jarrett for not giving him enough credit.



PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

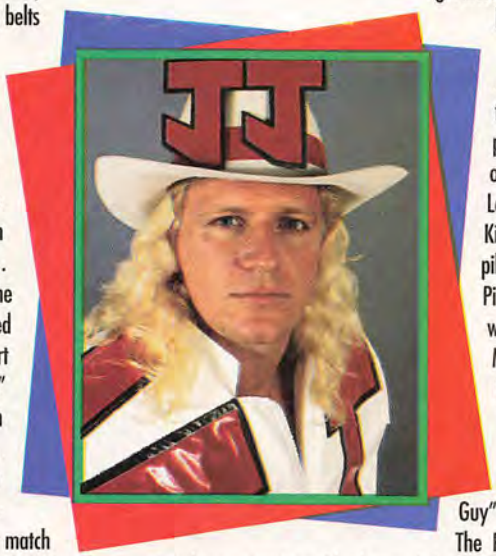
JEFF JARRETT
"Double J"

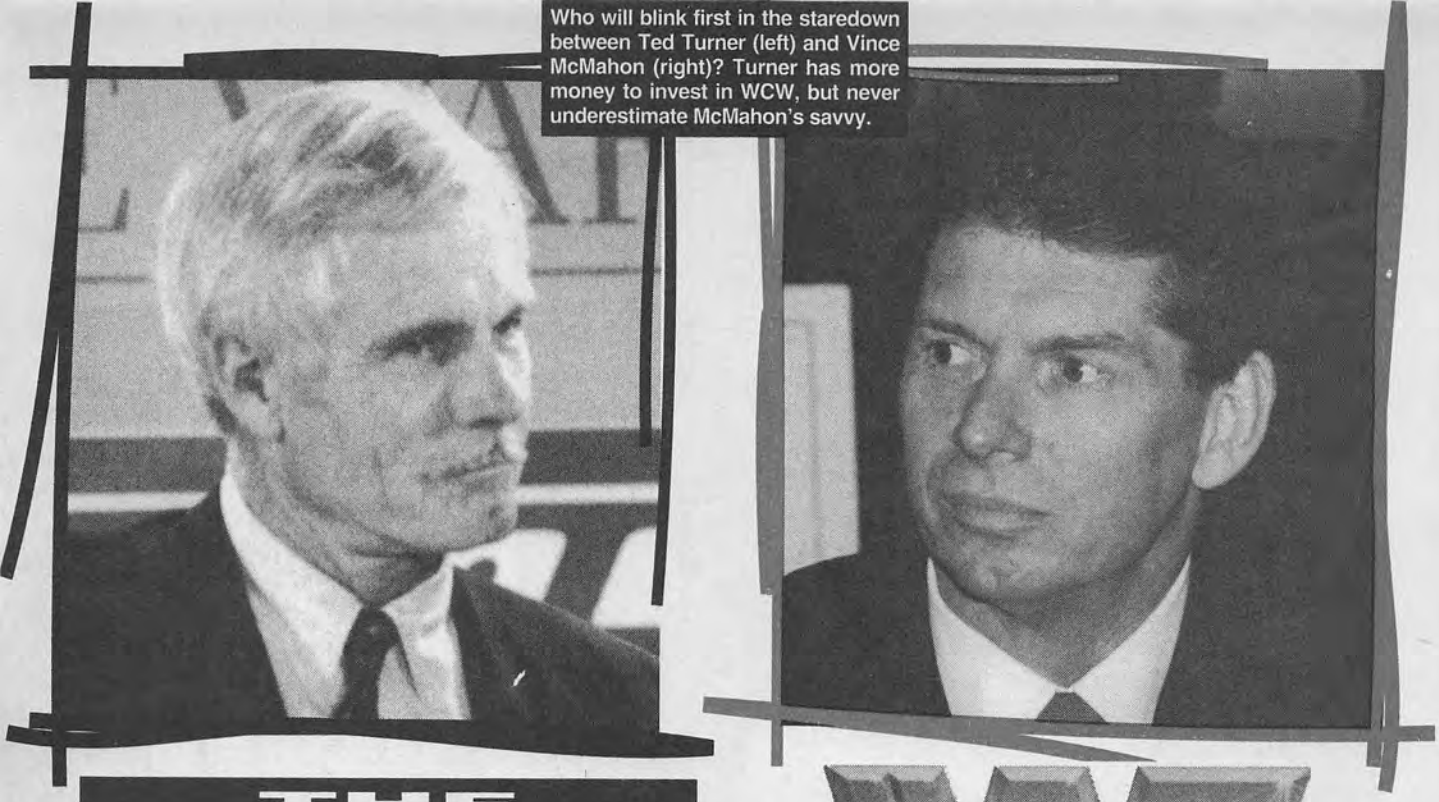


close-up:

JEFF JARRETT

"DOUBLE-J" JEFF JARRETT is the son of longtime Memphis promoter Jerry Jarrett ... Was a referee before turning pro ... Defeated Tony Falk in his debut in April 1986 ... Wrestled both Nick Bockwinkel and Curt Hennig for the AWA World title when they made occasional trips to Memphis ... Became a target of Robert Fuller's Stud Stable early in his career ... Won the World Class light heavyweight title from Eric Embry on October 15, 1988, in Dallas ... On March 12, 1989, he teamed with Kerry Von Erich to win the World Class tag belts from Fuller and Jimmy Golden ... They lost the belts on May 30 ... Jarrett then teamed with Mil Mascaras to win the World Class tag team title ... Also held the CWA title ... Gained a reputation for converting rulebreakers to fan favorites ... Feuded with Gen. Skandor Akbar's army and recruited the help of Jerry Lawler ... On October 6, 1990, he won the USWA Southern title from Dick Slater ... Held the Southern title twice in 1991 (and seven times total) ... Soon began teaming with Fuller, his longtime enemy ... They beat The Hangmen to win the USWA tag belts ... Regained and lost the belts several times ... Jarrett and Fuller finally split up in late-1991 ... Jarrett returned to the singles circuit and took on Embry for the Southern title and Tom Prichard for the Texas belt ... Became more aggressive as he battled Lawler for the USWA heavyweight title ... Eventually reunited with Fuller, who saved him from brutalization at the hands of The Moondogs ... Began teaming with Fuller and Lawler against The Moondogs ... On August 9, 1992, Jarrett appeared at a WWF card in Memphis and challenged Bret Hart to an Intercontinental title match. "The Hitman" accepted, but he lost the I-C belt to Davey Boy Smith before a match with Jarrett could be signed ... Jarrett and Lawler won the USWA tag belts from The Moondogs on August 17 in Memphis ... The rival teams had what was supposed to be their last match on August 24, 1992, when Spike piledrived referee Paul Neighbors ... But they met again several times, and on October 3, The Moondogs won the belts from Lawler, who was forced to defend the belt on his own because Jarrett was out of town ... Eddie Gilbert teamed with Jarrett and Lawler in some of their wars against The Moondogs ... Jarrett defeated Brian Christopher for the USWA Southern title on December 21 in Memphis ... The bitter feud continued, and Christopher regained the belt on January 11 in Memphis ... But it wasn't easy: Christopher needed help from five men ... On January 25, 1993, Lawler and Jarrett lost to Don and Ron Harris in a USWA tag team title tournament final when Christopher, Bert Prentice, and Mike Samples interfered on behalf of the Harrises ... Defeated Lex Luger by disqualification on February 23 when Christopher interfered ... Regained the Southern title from Christopher on March 1 ... Teamed with Big Bossman to beat The Harlem Knights ... Feuded with Christopher and the Knights in various tag team and singles matches ... Regained the Southern title from Christopher again on June 28, 1993 ... Later lost the Southern title to Vampire Warrior ... That feud continued with Jarrett teaming with Miss Texas, and Warrior teaming with Luna Vachon ... Bret and Owen Hart beat Lawler and Jarrett in a match in Memphis in the summer of 1993. The Harts used brass knuckles in that match ... Jarrett regained the belt from Warrior and lost it to Tommy Rich in September ... Teamed with Christopher and won the USWA tag belts in a tournament on October 25, 1993 ... Lost the belts to Rex Hargrove and Koko B. Ware after Toni Adams tossed powder in Christopher's eyes ... Regained the belts on November 8 ... Beat Lawler in a battle royal for the vacant USWA heavyweight title on November 22. Jarrett had his feet on the ropes when he pinned Lawler ... Lost the belt to Lawler on December 20 ... Meanwhile, Jarrett wasn't making any friends in the WWF, where he had made his debut just weeks earlier ... As a rulebreaking, singing wrestler, Jarrett started making an impact on the federation ... Beat The Kid, among others, but lost to Bret Hart, among others ... Soon started receiving shots at Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon ... Began appearing less frequently in the USWA and more frequently in the WWF ... Billed himself as the greatest country music singer in the world ... Was helped in his efforts by the interference of The Roadie (a.k.a. Jesse James Armstrong) ... Jarrett and Lawler attacked Dink at a WWF TV taping in Rochester, New York ... "Double-J" pinned Doink the Clown in several matches, most of the time with his own feet on the ropes ... Lost to The Kid in the quarterfinals of the 1994 King of the Ring tournament. Responded by piledriving Kid three times after the match ... Pinned Mabel at SummerSlam '94 ... Teamed with Diesel, Jim Neidhart, Owen Hart, and Shawn Michaels and lost in the 1994 Survivor Series to Razor Ramon, Fatu, The Kid, Davey Boy Smith, and Sionne ... Continued losing to Ramon in I-C title matches ... Scored the biggest victory of his career, however, by upsetting the "Bad Guy" for the I-C belt at the 1995 Royal Rumble ... The Roadie's interference couldn't save Jarrett in WWF World title match losses to Diesel, however ... Lost to Ramon by DQ at WrestleMania XI when Roadie interfered ... Was later pinned by Bret Hart in a non-title match ... Apparently lost the I-C belt to Bob Holly on April 26, but Jarrett draped one foot over the rope as referee Earl Hebner finished the count. WWF officials declared the belt held up, and Jarrett came back later in the evening to pin Holly ... Jarrett and Roadie lost to Ramon in a handicap match at In Your House I ... Lost the belt to Ramon in a ladder match on May 19, but regained it two nights later ... Lost the belt to Shawn Michaels at In Your House II on July 23 in Nashville after Roadie mistakenly tripped Jarrett ... Earlier in the evening, Jarrett performed the song "With My Baby Tonight" for the Music City, U.S.A., crowd ... Left the WWF that night following a conflict with WWF officials ... Denied his music performance was lip-synched ... Returned to wrestling on November 13, 1995, and beat Jesse James Armstrong (The Roadie) in a USWA match ... Returned to the WWF on December 17 and sneak-attacked Ahmed Johnson ... Lost to Johnson by DQ at the 1996 Royal Rumble after smashing a guitar over his head ... "Double-J" is definitely back with a vengeance; his second tour of the WWF figures to be at least as interesting as his first, if not more so. □





Who will blink first in the staredown between Ted Turner (left) and Vince McMahon (right)? Turner has more money to invest in WCW, but never underestimate McMahon's savvy.

THE WCW WWF WAR!

Monday night ratings wars ...

"Billionaire Ted" ...

name-calling ...

talent-raiding ...

it's getting ugly out there, folks!

Is a cease-fire anywhere in sight?

Report From The Front Lines

FOUR YEARS AGO, he was the star of the WWF's show, but suddenly, Hulk Hogan seems to have aged. His once-huge, muscle-covered arms are flabby, his shirt hangs loosely on an out-of-shape body, and he needs a walker to make his way up to a podium for a press conference. Is this the "Hulkster" millions of fans know and love?

Here they all are: "The Huckster," "Billionaire Ted," and "The Nacho Man." It's the WWF's way of ridiculing Turner and his top stars. But will this tactic backfire on the WWF?

Well, not exactly. This is "The Huckster," the WWF's bitter and occasionally humorous takeoff on the real Hogan, who just happens to be wrestling in rival WCW. "The Huckster" is the WWF's way of saying, "Look! Those other guys have taken all our retreads, and now they're talking about how great they are!"

In addition to "The Huckster," the characters for the WWF's "Billionaire Ted's 'Rasslin War Room" skits include "The Nacho Man" (a Randy Savage lookalike), "Scheme Gene" (a "Mean" Gene Okerlund takeoff), and "Billionaire Ted" (a Ted Turner takeoff). The not-so-subtle message: They (WCW) are trying to be what we (the WWF) were.

The WWF's response to WCW's bold rise is only the most recent shot fired in wrestling's hottest world war ever: It's the WWF—dominant for more than 10 years—against WCW, which two years ago finally started fighting fire with money. The battle is intensifying and has reached the point where sometimes the potshots overshadow the wrestling.

For example: WrestleMania XII this year was to have featured a comedy "main event" between "The Huckster" and "The Nacho Man."

With this in mind, the editors of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED decided the time was right to introduce a new regular column focusing on the WWF vs. WCW wars. In this space, we'll chronicle the latest barbs between the two, wrestlers 2jumping federations, Monday night ratings wars, any court battles that take place (WCW sent a letter threatening legal action against the WWF for its "Billionaire Ted" skits), and see if we can figure out exactly who's winning. If you have any thoughts at all about the WWF-WCW wars, send them to: "WWF-WCW Wars," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. We'll be printing some of your thoughts in that new column.

Although the war should be sideshow to the wrestling action, it has clearly taken center stage.

On the live January 1 *WCW Monday Nitro* broadcast, Eric Bischoff told viewers not to watch the taped "toilet bowl," a reference to the WWF's *"Raw* Bowl" competition that was airing opposite *Nitro*. A few weeks later, Bischoff referred to the WWF's Royal Rumble as the "Royal Fumble." On other *Nitros*, Bischoff gave the results of taped *Raw* matches being aired opposite *Nitro*. WCW wrestlers and personnel have regu-

RAW vs. NITRO:

Every war seems to have one battle that is the key to victory and defeat. In the extended war between the WWF and WCW, that battle is for Monday night viewership.

Despite a difficult Monday 9 p.m. time slot (*Monday Night Football, Murphy Brown*), the WWF has been wildly successful with *WWF Monday Night Raw* since its debut in January 1993. The time slot became a lot more crowded this past September 4, however, when *WCW Monday Nitro* made its debut.

Interestingly, before *Nitro* went on the air, *Monday Night Raw* was among the top 15 cable TV shows with an average rating of 3.2. Even after *Raw* began splitting its audience with *Nitro*, however, the two shows' combined ratings average was 4.9 (2.5 for *Raw;* 2.4 for *Nitro*). That means 1.6 million more people are tuning in. Sounds to us like the sport of wrestling as a whole might be winning the war so far.

[Note: One ratings point represents 1 percent of the nation's 95.9 million TV households; a rating of 3.0 translates to 2.9 million homes. Shares represent the percentage of TV sets in use.]

larly taken shots at the WWF ("This is where the big boys play!") and just about forced the WWF to respond with "The Huckster" and "The Nacho Man."

The WWF then took the war to another level, spending $17,000 for an ad in *The New York Times,* stating: "Attention: TBS Stockholders: Does Ted Turner have a personal vendetta against The World Wrestling Federation? Time-Warner, Beware!"

McMahon followed that up by filing a formal complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, alleging that Turner has "engaged in a systematic plan to destroy the WWF."

For years, the WWF had Monday night to itself with the sometimes-live *Monday Night Raw* airing at 9 p.m. Eastern time. When WCW decided to have its own prime-time live wrestling show, it could have picked any day at any time. It chose Mondays at 9 p.m. So far, WCW is winning most of the Monday night battles in the Nielsen ratings *(see sidebar),* but the fact remains: WCW could have had the entire audience to itself by choosing another night or time. WCW chose war.

The pay-per-view wars have intensified. The WWF used to have the Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, King of the Ring, SummerSlam, and Survivor Series. WCW used to have Starrcade, Battlebowl, SuperBrawl, Slamboree, The Great American Bash, and Halloween Havoc. Now the federations are running one pay-per-view show almost every month, and that strain you're feeling is in your wallet.

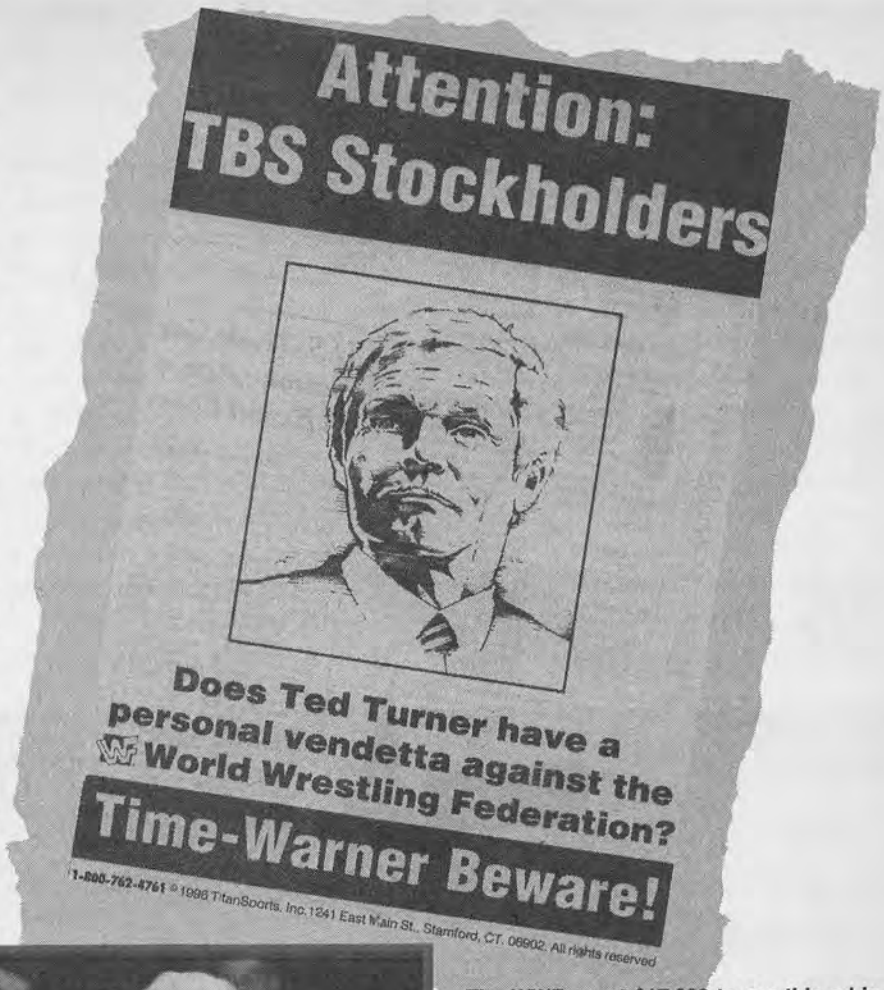
During *Nitro* commercial breaks, Bischoff watches *Raw* on a TV monitor, then occasionally responds to what the WWF has done or said. The WWF is surely watching *Nitro* just as closely.

	Date	Rating	Share	Main Event
RAW	no show			
NITRO	9/4	2.9		Hogan-Rogers
RAW	9/11	2.2	3.2	Michaels-Sid
NITRO	9/11	2.5	3.8	Hogan-Luger
RAW	9/18	2.5	3.4	Ramon-Kid
NITRO	9/18	2.4	3.4	Flair-Pillman
RAW	9/25	2.7	3.8	Gunns-Owen & Yoko
NITRO	9/25	1.9	2.8	Savage-Sullivan
RAW	10/2	2.5	3.5	Ramon-Kid
NITRO	10/2	2.5	3.7	Flair-Arn
RAW	10/9	2.6	3.8	six-man tag
NITRO	10/9	2.6	3.8	Flair-Anderson
RAW	10/16	2.5	3.6	Bret-Yoko
NITRO	10/16	2.2	3.2	Flair/Sting-Pillman/Arn
RAW	10/23	2.6	3.8	battle royal
NITRO	10/23	2.2	3.2	Sting/Luger-Heat
RAW	10/30	2.2	3.1	Ramon-Owen
NITRO	10/30	2.5	3.6	Luger/Meng-Males
RAW	11/6	2.1	3.0	Lawler/Yankem-Bret/Hakushi
NITRO	11/6	2.3	3.2	Sting-Flair
RAW	11/13	2.6	3.9	Ramon-Sid
NITRO	11/13	2.0	2.9	Sting-Malenko
RAW	11/20	2.3	3.3	Michaels-Owen
NITRO	11/20	2.5	3.6	Hogan-Sting
RAW	11/27	2.5	3.4	Undertaker-Mo
NITRO	11/27	2.3	3.3	Sting/Luger-Pillman/Arn
RAW	12/4	2.4	3.4	Ramon-Douglas
NITRO	12/4	2.6	3.8	Luger-Savage
RAW	12/11	2.5	3.4	Bret-Backlund
NITRO	12/11	2.6	3.7	Hogan/Sting-Flair/Arn
RAW	12/18	2.3	3.4	Ramon-Yoko
NITRO	12/18	2.7	4.0	Savage-Giant
RAW	12/25	no show		
NITRO	12/25	2.5	4.7	Savage-Flair
RAW	1/1	2.6	3.8	Raw Bowl
NITRO	1/1	2.5	3.7	Hogan-Flair
RAW	1/8	3.0	4.1	Bret-Bulldog (IYH)
NITRO	1/8	2.8	3.9	Hogan/Savage-Flair/Arn
RAW	1/15	2.4	3.5	Undertaker-Yankem
NITRO	1/15	3.5	5.0	Flair-Sting
RAW	1/22	2.9	4.2	Bret-Goldust
NITRO	1/22	2.7	2.9	Savage-Flair
RAW	1/29	2.4	3.3	Michaels-Yoko
NITRO	1/29	2.8	4.0	Flair-Hogan

For years, WCW took shots at the WWF and the WWF turned a deaf ear, refusing to even acknowledge its main competitor. There was good reason for this: The WWF had most of the superstars and most of the fans. WCW ran a distant second in the public eye and in the financial ledgers.

But two years ago, WCW got the WWF's attention in the most effective possibly way: It started using Ted Turner's deep pockets to sign some of the WWF's greatest stars: Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Hacksaw Duggan, Brutus Beefcake, Lex Luger, Bobby Heenan, and Gene Okerlund all found their way to WCW. And it was war.

The WWF responded by signing some unheralded young stars and building itself as the home of the "New Generation." Last summer,


Attention:
TBS Stockholders
Does Ted Turner have a personal vendetta against the World Wrestling Federation?
Time-Warner Beware!
1-800-762-4761 ©1996 TitanSports, Inc. 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT. 06902. All rights reserved

The WWF spent $17,000 to run this ad in *The New York Times*, alerting TBS and Time Warner stockholders of what they believe to be Ted Turner's motives in the war between wrestling's "Big Two."

In 1993, Jimmy Hart, Brutus Beefcake, and Hulk Hogan were three of the WWF's top personalities. Today, each are working in the rival WCW. Will Ted Turner continue to raid WWF talent?

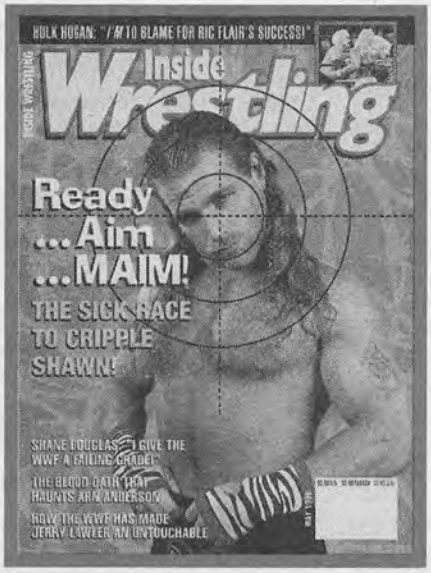
WCW outbid the WWF for young stars Sabu, Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko, and Chris Benoit. Despite all of WCW's signing successes, the WWF has maintained a healthy share of the TV ratings and the pay-per-view dollar. It enrages WCW people that the WWF is still perceived by some as the dominant federation.

The WWF is helping that perception along with its "Billionaire Ted" skits, in which WCW is portrayed as the home of washed-up retreads. According to the WWF, Turner's an expert at retreads: old movies, old TV shows, and now old wrestlers.

Is the WWF right? Actually, it doesn't matter. This is war, and it's the hottest thing since Beta took on VHS. Question is, who's Beta? □

this month in...

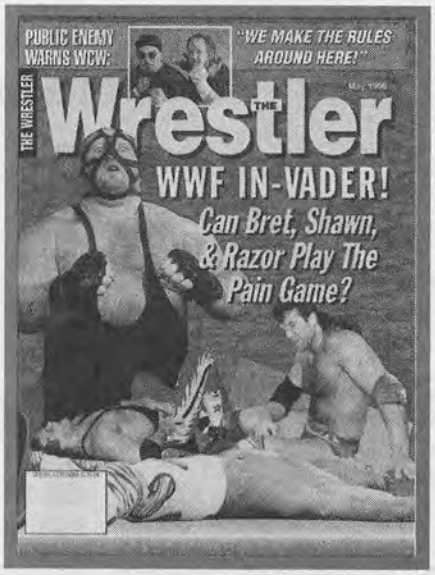
Inside Wrestling


HULK HOGAN: "I'M TO BLAME FOR RIC FLAIR'S SUCCESS!"
Inside Wrestling
Ready ...Aim ...MAIM!
THE SICK RACE TO CRIPPLE SHAWN!
SHANE DOUGLAS: I GIVE THE WWF A FALLING GRADE!
THE BLOOD DATA THAT HAUNTS ARN ANDERSON
HOW THE WWF HAS MADE JERRY LAWLER AN UNTOUCHABLE

The last few months of 1995 were not the best of times for **SHAWN MICHAELS**. He was beaten senseless outside a nightclub in New York, then collapsed in the ring during a match. Believe it or not, 1996 could be worse for "The Heartbreak Kid." There are lot of people in the WWF out to cripple him! ... Find out why **HULK HOGAN** is taking the blame for **RIC FLAIR'S** recent success ... You can make a strong case that **JERRY LAWLER** is the most irritating man in the WWF. If that's true, why has the WWF made "The King" untouchable in the ring?

All this—and much more!—in the May 1996 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

The Wrestler


PUBLIC ENEMY WARNS WCW:
"WE MAKE THE RULES AROUND HERE!"
THE WRESTLER
The Wrestler
WWF IN-VADER!
Can Bret, Shawn, & Razor Play The Pain Game?

It's **VADER** time in the WWF! You saw what he did to **GORILLA MONSOON**. It could get worse when he gets his hands on **SHAWN MICHAELS**, **RAZOR RAMON**, and **BRET HART**. Will they survive? ... Is there anyone who *wasn't* shocked to hear that **ONE MAN GANG** was the new WCW U.S. champion? You might be even more shocked when you read about how **KENSUKE SASAKI** was duped out of that title! ... You think **GOLDUST** is weird? We do, too, but you haven't seen weird until you've seen some of the odd wrestling characters we have pictures of!

All this—and much more!—in the May 1996 issue of ***The Wrestler***

arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD—Slammers Wrestling Federation at the Center For Enriched Studies: **Jimmie Jaimes** & **The Samoan Kid** beat **Dynamite D** & **Tyrone Little** ... **Buddy West** beat **Tyrone Little** ... **Bruce Beaudine** beat **Hombre De Oro** ... **Verne Langdon** defeated **El Toro Bravo** ... **Jeff Lindberg** beat **Movie Star Mike.**
(01-25-96)

—Gregg John

FRESNO—WWF Royal Rumble pay-per-view at the Convention Center: **Duke Droese** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by reverse decision in a match in which the winner got to enter the Royal Rumble last and the loser would have to enter first ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** by disqualification at 6:41 when Jarrett smashed a guitar over Johnson's head ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) when **Bart Gunn** pinned Skip at 11:12 ... **Goldust** pinned Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** at 14:15 to win the title after **The Kid** interfered ... **Shawn Michaels** won the 30-man Royal Rumble at 58:46, last eliminating **Diesel** ... **The Undertaker** defeated World champion **Bret Hart** by disqualification at 28:31 when **Diesel** interfered.
(01-21-96)

—Chuck Green

CONNECTICUT

NEW HAVEN—WWF at the Coliseum: **Fatu** defeated **Bob Backlund** ... **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) beat **Marty Jannetty** & **Barry Horowitz** ... **Bob Holly** defeated **"Psycho" Sid Vicious** ... **Henry Godwinn** beat **Rad Radford** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Jerry Lawler** & **Isaac Yankem** ... **Goldust** pinned **Savio Vega** ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Davey Boy Smith** by disqualification when **Jeff Jarrett** interfered ... World Champion **Bret Hart** & **The Undertaker** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Yokozuna.**
(01-06-96)

—Nick Mahmood & Mike Blair

FLORIDA

PALMETTO—Southwest Wrestling Federation/Florida Wrestling Federation card at the National Guard Armory: **Kevin Katlin** and **Pat Powers** wrestled to a draw ... **The Ayala Brothers** & **Freedom Ryder** beat **"Hitman" Chris Nelson, Navy Seal,** & **Stormy Weather** ... **Mark Starr** beat **Perfect 10** ... **Al Hardimon** beat **Greg Valentine** by reverse decision ... **Bad Medicine** wrestled **The Southern Posse** to a double-disqualification ... **The Cuban Assassin** wrestled to a no-contest with **The Mighty Hercules** ... **Freedom Ryder** won a 16-man battle royal to capture the vacant SWWF heavyweight title.
(01-19-96)

—Joe McDougal

GEORGIA

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Scott James** defeated **Risk Taylor** by disqualification ... **Chuck Colt, Michael Collins,** & **Johnny Blaze** defeated **Joel Travis, Mr. Pain,** & **The New One Man Gang** ... **Kenny Arden, Sam Colt,** & **Keith Hart** beat **Jimmy Sharpe, Roger Sartain,** & **Rick Justice.**
(01-26-96)

—Harry Hickson

WHITE—Powerslam Wrestling at the White Gym: **The Crypt Keeper** defeated **The Demon of Destruction** ... **Big Huff** defeated **Cody Gunn** by disqualification .. **Kenny Arden** defeated **Bubba Humphries** ... **Lord Humongous** defeated **John Arden** ... **Chris Walker** defeated **Tim Dyer.**
(01-22-96)

—Bill Needham

ATLANTA—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at Center Stage Theater (highlights): World champion **Ric Flair** defeated **Alex Wright** ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** beat **Marcus Bagwell** & **Scotty Riggs** ... **Public Enemy** defeated **Scott** & **Steve Armstrong** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **The Barrio Brothers** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** defeateds **Joey Maggs** ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** defeated **Men at Work** ... World champion **Ric Flair** defeated **Dean Malenko** ... **Randy Savage** beat **Chris Benoit** by disqualification.
(01-17-96)

—Holly Miller

ATLANTA—*WCW Saturday Night* and *WCW Main Event* tapings at Center Stage Theater: **Kevin Sullivan** defeated **Butch Long** ... **Randy Savage** defeated World champion **Ric Flair** by disqualification. Flair had originally pinned Savage after **Arn Anderson** hit Savage with brass knuckles, but **Hulk Hogan** told the referee what happened, and he disqualified Flair ... **Eddy Guerrero** pinned **Chris Benoit** ... **Scott Norton** beat **Bill Pain** ... **Men at Work** defeated **Bunkhouse Buck** & **Dick Slater** ... **Arn Anderson** defeated **Big Bubba Rogers** after **Hacksaw Duggan** interfered ... **Kevin Sullivan** beat **Chris Nelson** ... U.S. champion **One Man Gang** beat **The Ginat Ninja** ... **Brian Pillman** beat **Todd Morton** by submission ... **Alex Wright** beat **Dean Malenko** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** beat **Lex Luger** & **Sting** by disqualification ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat **Steve Armstrong** ... **Lord Steven Regal** defeated **Dusty Wolfe** by disqualification when **Dave Findlay** interfered ... TV champion **Johnny B. Badd** (with **The Diamond Doll**) beat **Meng** ... **Lex Luger** & **Sting** beat **The Barrio Brothers** ... **Joey Maggs** beat **V.K. Wall Street** by disqualification ... **Road Warrior Hawk** beat **Kurasawa** ... **Road Warrior Hawk** pinned **Fidel Sierra.**
(01-10-96)

—Scott Hudson

GORE—North Georgia Wrestling Alliance at the Community Center: **Bubbles the Clown** defeated **The Roughneck** ... **Blazing Fury** defeated **Deano Stone** ... **Maxx Steele** wrestled **The Demon of Destruction** to a double-countout ... **Robbie "The Bull" McBride** defeated **The Good Ol' Boy** ... **Big Bubba Humphries** & **The Nasty Critter** wrestled **Kenny** & **John Arden** to a double-disqualification.
(01-15-96)

—Bill Needham

ILLINOIS

FLORA—Bad to the Bone Wrestling at the VFW Center: **Bulldog Long** beat **The Rockin' Rebel** ... **The Red Baron** defeated **The Cosmetic Cowboy** ... **Madman Pondo** beat **Bull Pain** by reverse decision ... **Lady Vendetta** beat **Debbie T. Wild** ... **Ian Rotten** defeated **Madman Pondo** in a barbed-wire baseball bat match.
(01-03-96)

—Robert Burcham

INDIANA

JASPER—Independent card at the National Guard Armory: **Flying Angel** beat **Carolina Kid** ... **The Rockin' Rebel** beat **The Indiana Warrior** ... **Vampire Warrior** defeated **"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony** ... **Luna Vachon** beat **Debbie T. Wild** ... **Bodysnatcher** defeated **Bull Pain** ... **Dutch Mantel** beat **Robert Gibson** ... **Ian Rotten** defeated **Madman Pondo** in a "taipei death" match.
(01-05-96)

—Robert Burcham

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE—WWF at the Baltimore Arena: **"Ring Master" Steve Austin** defeated **Henry Godwinn** ... **Duke Droese, Fatu,** & **Bob Holly** beat **Bob Backlund, Isaac Yankem,** & **Tatanka** ... **Owen Hart** beat **Hakushi** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) ... **Savio Vega** beat Intercontinental

champion **Goldust** by countout ... **Shawn Michaels** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat **Diesel** in a steel cage match.
(01-25-96)

—Adam Taylor

MASSACHUSETTS

FITCHBURG—WWF at the Wallace Center: **Duke Droese** beat **Barry Horowitz** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Owen Hart & Davey Boy Smith** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Yokozuna** ... **Marty Jannetty** beat **Bob Backlund** ... **Skip & Zip** beat **Bob Holly & Aldo Montoya** ... **Savio Vega** defeated **Dr. Isaac Yankem** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** by disqualification ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Goldust** beat **Henry Godwinn** ... World champion **Bret Hart** defeated **Diesel** in a steel cage match.
(01-14-96)

—Albert Darwin

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS—Mid-Missouri Wrestling Alliance at the South Broadway Athletic Club: **Pete Madden** (with **The Magic Man**) wrestled to a double-countout with **The Rock 'n' Roll Kid** ... **Frankie D** (with **The Magic Man**) pinned **The Lumberjack** ... **Lunatic Maxx** defeated **Jason Reeves** by disqualification ... **Ragin' Cajun** pinned **Mr. Bibs** ... **Johnny Jett** pinned **The Gambler** ... **Johnny Jett** won a battle royal ... **Ty Dalton** wrestled to a double-countout with **Tony Hall** ... **The Drill Instructor** beat **The Ninja** ... **Tom Sullivan** beat **The Giant Assassin** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Danny Boy** pinned **Ghetto Grub**.
(01-20-96)

—Richard Corrales

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—WCW Clash of the Champions XXXII at Caesars Palace: **Public Enemy** and **The Nasty Boys** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Dean Malenko** pinned **Alex Wright** ... **Brian Pillman** pinned **Eddy Guerrero** ... World tag team champions **Lex Luger & Sting** defeated **Bobby Eaton & Lord Steven Regal** when Sting forced Eaton to submit to the Scorpion deathlock ... **Konnan** defeated **Psicosis** by submission ... **Ric Flair & The Giant** beat **Hulk Hogan & Randy Savage** (with **Elizabeth & Kevin Greene** of the Pittsburgh Steelers) when Flair pinned Savage after hitting him with brass knuckles.
(01-23-96)

—Tom Jenkins

NEW JERSEY

YARDVILLE—National Wrestling Alliance at Imaginations: **Cousin Luke, Johnny Gunn, & The Misfits** defeated **The E.Z. Ryders & The Dark Side** ... **Johnny Handsome** beat **The Inferno Kid** ... **Ace Darling** defeated **Abbudah Singh** by countout ... **Akita Kaos** defeated **Bobby Blaze** in a baseball bat match ... Heavyweight champion **Dan Severn** beat **Ghetto Blaster** by submission ... **H.W. Star** pinned **Kool Kid Ice** ... **Devon Storm** beat **Rick Ratchet** ... **Bad Attitude** defeated **The Lost Boys** ... North American champion **Tommy Cairo** beat **Derek Domino** in a ladder match.
(01-27-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Tatanka & Isaac Yankem** defeated **Bob Holly & Fatu** ... **Duke Droese** beat **The Kid** ... **Owen Hart** beat **Hakushi** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... **"Ring Master" Steve Austin** defeated **Henry Godwinn** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** ... World tag team champs **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Skip & Zip** (with **Sunny**) ... **Savio Vega** beat Intercontinental champion **Goldust** by countout ... **Shawn Michaels** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... World champion **Bret Hart** defeated **Diesel** in a steel cage match.
(01-26-96)

—Lisa Pernett

WHITE PLAINS—WWF at the Westchester County Center: **Savio Vega** beat **Bob Backlund** ... **Fatu** beat **Isaac Yankem** ... **Tatanka** beat **Bob Holly** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Skip & Zip** (with **Sunny**) ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **Duke Droese** ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat Intercontinental champion **Goldust** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Jeff Jarrett** ... **"Ring Master" Steve Austin** beat **Hakushi** ... **The Undertaker & Diesel** beat **Yokozuna & Owen Hart** by countout.
(01-24-96)

—Kelly Morgan

UNIONDALE—WWF at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum: **Fatu** beat **Bob Backlund** ... **Henry Godwinn** defeated **Rad Radford** ... **Goldust** defeated **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Davey Boy Smith** by disqualification ... **Skip & Zip** (with **Sunny**) beat **Barry Horowitz & Marty Jannetty** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Jerry Lawler & Isaac Yankem** ... **Savio Vega** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **Razor Ramon & Diesel** defeated **"Psycho" Sid Vicious & Jeff Jarrett** ... **Bret Hart & The Undertaker** (with **Paul Bearer**) defeated **Owen Hart & Yokozuna**.
(01-05-96)

—Heidi Graham

NORTH CAROLINA

FOREST CITY—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Tyrone Knox** won an 11-man battle royal ... Eastern States champion **Austin Steele** beat **Tyrone Knox** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Flaming Youth** beat **Masked Maniac** ... Heavyweight champion **Terry Austin** defeated **Chris Hamrick** in a ladder match ... The match between tag team champions **The Equalizer & George South** and **Star Ryder & Italian Stallion** never took place, as South & Equalizer attacked their opponents with chairs beforehand, rendering both of them unable to compete.
(01-27-96)

—Brock Chandler

SOUTHERN PINES—Alternative Championship Wrestling TV taping at the Armory: **"Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant** pinned **The Russian Assassin** in a lumberjack match ... Heavyweight champion **Bone Crusher** defeated **Dan Cooley** ... Tag team champions **The East Coast Connection** defeated **Mad Dog Davidson & Dr. Lee Luv** ... **Tim Blaze** (with **Brandywine**) pinned **Brian Bruise** ... **Mr. Excellence** defeated **Dale Porter** ... **Sgt. Max Rhodes** defeated **The Crusader** by submission.
(01-27-96)

—Brian Powell

CHARLOTTE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the PWF Training Center: **Cruel Connection II** won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating **Gladiator II** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Flaming Youth** defeated **Masked Maniac** ... Tag team champions **Scotty McKeever & George South** beat **Randy Sledge & Star Ryder** ... Eastern States champion **Sweet Brown Sugar** beat **Gladiator II** ... **Terry Austin** defeated heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** to win the belt after **George South** interfered. Before the match, PWF Commissioner **Jim Tucker** announced that he was returning the heavyweight belt to Stallion because he had viewed videotape of the January 16 match between Stallion and Austin in which South's interference allowed Austin to beat Stallion for the belt.
(01-18-96)

—Brock Chandler

CHARLOTTE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the PWF Training Center: Junior heavyweight champion **Flaming Youth** beat **Gladiator II** ... **The Equalizer** defeated **Baby Huey** ... Eastern States champion **Sweet Brown Sugar** defeated **Austin Steele** ... Tag team champions **Scotty McKeever & George South** defeated **Carolina Dreamer & Randy Sledge** ... **Terry Austin** defeated heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** to win the belt after **George South** interfered.
(01-16-96)

—Brock Chandler

CHARLOTTE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the PWF Training Center: **Cruel Connection II** beat **Gladiator II** ... **The Equalizer** defeated **Baby Huey** ... **Flaming Youth** beat junior heavyweight champion **Star Ryder** to win the title ... Tag team champions **Scotty McKeever & George South** beat **Carolina Dreamer & Italian Stallion** in a street fight after **Jamie Tucker** interfered.
(01-09-96)

—Brock Chandler

CHARLOTTE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the PWF Training Center: **Cruel Connection II** won an eight-man battle royal ... **Sweet Brown Sugar** beat Eastern States champion **The Equalizer** to win the title ... Tag team champions **Scotty McKeever & George South** beat **Carolina Dreamer & Randy Sledge** ... **Masked Maniac** beat **Flaming Youth** ... **Russian Assassin II** (with **Madd Maxxine**) beat **Star Ryder** ... Heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** beat **Austin Steele**.
(01-02-96)

—Brock Chandler

ASHEVILLE—International Pro Wrestling at O'Sullivan's Bar: **Dave Jericho** beat **Steve Skyfire** ... **The Headbangers** beat **Eddie Golden & Stan Lee** ... **Joey Maggs** beat **David Young** ... **Terry Gordy** beat **Billy Black** ... **Ricky Morton** beat **Brad Armstrong** ... **The Gangstas** wrestled **The Punisher & Rick Savage** to a double-disqualification.
(01-23-96)

—Dan Parris

MOORESVILLE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Austin Steele** defeated Eastern States champion **Sweet Brown Sugar** to win the title ... Junior heavyweight champion **Flaming Youth** defeated **Russian Assassin II** (with **Madd Maxxine**) ... Heavyweight champion **Terry Austin** defeated **Chris Hamrick** ... **The Equalizer & George South** beat tag team champions **Star Ryder & Italian Stallion** to win the belts ... **Italian Stallion** won an eight-man "War Games" match.
(01-20-96)

—Brock Chandler

WAYNESVILLE—GAWF TV taping at the Rag Mill Mall: **Scotty McKeever** pinned **David Renegade** ... **Major DeBeers & K.C. Thunder** (with **Count Grog**) beat **Medic Madness** ... **The Dark Patriot** pinned **Mike Murphy** ... **The Terminators** beat **The Georgia Express** ... **Super Mario** pinned **The Assassin** ... **The Georgia Express** beat **The Ringbusters** by disqualification ... **The Dark Patriot** beat **Stan Brown** ... **The Phoenix** beat **Dan Cooley** by disqualification ... **The Punisher** wrestled **Ricky Rocket** to a no-contest ... **K.C. Thunder** beat **Stan Brown** ... **The Phoenix** beat **Ricky Rocket** ... **Major DeBeers** (with **Count Grog**) defeated **Mike Murphy**.
(01-18-96)

—Janet Winonah

ELKIN—PWF at the Armory: **Sweet Brown Sugar** won a bunkhouse stampede ... Tag team champions **Scotty McKeever** & **George South** beat **Terry Austin** & **Austin Steele** ... **Cruel Connection II** defeated **Randy Sledge** ... **The Equalizer** defeated **Gladiator II** ... **Carolina Dreamer**, **Star Ryder**, & **Italian Stallion** beat **Scotty McKeever**, **George South**, & **Austin Steele** in a steel cage match. The rules for the match stated that the match would begin on the arena floor, and the first man over the steel cage and *into* the ring would have his team declared the winners. **Carolina Dreamer** was the first man over.
(01-05-96)

—Brock Chandler

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—WWF at the CoreStates Spectrum: **Duke Droese** & **Bob Holly** defeated **Tatanka** & **Isaac Yankem** ... **"Ring Master" Steve Austin** beat **Henry Godwinn** ... **Owen Hart** defeated **Hakushi** ... **The Undertaker** (with **Paul Bearer**) beat **Yokozuna** ... Intercontinental champion **Goldust** beat **Savio Vega** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Jeff Jarrett** by countout ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) ... **Shawn Michaels** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... World champion **Bret Hart** beat **Diesel** in a steel cage match.
(01-28-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **Hack Myers** pinned **Mr. Hughes** (with **Damien Kane**) ... **Dredd** pinned **The Blue Meanie** ... **Bubba Ray** & **Dances With Dudley** beat **J.T. Smith** & **Axl Rotten** ... **The Headhunters** beat **The Bad Crew** (with **Damien Kane** & **Lady Alexandra**) ... TV champion **2 Cold Scorpio** (with **Woman**) pinned **El Puerto Ricano** (substituting for **Jim Del Ray**) ... **The Gangstas** defeated **The Pit Bulls** (with **Francine**) ... **Sabu** beat **Rob Van Dam** by disqualification when **El Puerto Ricano** interfered ... Tag team champions **Cactus Jack** & **Mikey Whipwreck** beat **Tommy Dreamer** & **Shane Douglas** ... **Raven** pinned heavyweight champion **The Sandman** (with **Woman**) to win the title.
(01-27-96)

—Bart Orkline

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **911** & **Rey Misterio Jr.** defeated **The Eliminators** (with **Jason**) ... **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Axl Rotten** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** (with **Woman**) pinned TV champion **Mikey Whipwreck** to win the belt ... **Taz** (with **Bill Alfonso**) beat **Hack Myers** by submission ... **Bubba Ray Dudley** pinned **Jimmy Del Ray** (with **Mr. Hughes**) ... **The Bad Crew** (with **Damien Kane** & **Lady Alexandra**) wrestled **J.T. Smith** & **Tony Stetson** to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion **The Sandman** (with **Woman**) beat **Konnan** ... **Sabu** (with **Paul E. Dangerously**) pinned **Stevie Richards** (with **The Blue Meanie**) ... **Public Enemy** defeated **The Gangstas**.
(01-05-96)

—Bart Orkline & Michael J. DiMuzio

SOUTH CAROLINA

INMAN—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Sweet Brown Sugar** beat **Russian Assassin II** ... **Baby Huey** beat **The Assassin** ... Tag team champions **George South** & **The Equalizer** defeated **Italian Stallion** & **Sweet Brown Sugar** ... Heavyweight champion **Terry Austin** beat **Chris Hamrick** ... **Chris Hamrick** won a battle royal.
(01-26-96)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

SPRING CITY—American Sports Wrestling at the Action Barn: TV champion **Keith Hart** defeated **Eric Rose** ... **Woody Woodchuck** beat **Steve Stakk** ... **Rick Justice** & **Chuck Colt** defeated **The Shogun Warriors** by disqualification ... **Joel Travis** beat **Mike Collins** ... **Steve Stakk** won a battle royal to win the vacant ASW heavyweight title.
(01-27-96)

—Bill Needham

PIGEON FORGE—Intercontinental Championship Wrestling's "Battle Of The Belts" at the Middle School: ICW light heavyweight champion **The Delaware Destroyer** defeated **Kid Lightning** ... Southern Wrestling Association champion **Mike Powers** beat **Crazy Bobby B** ... **Iceman** beat ICW Southern champion **The Black Assassin** to win the belt ... ICW tag team champions **Dr. Dan** & **The Orderly** beat **Johnny Meadows** & **Jeff Anderson** ... **The Wolfman** wrestled **Eight-Ball Jones** to a draw ... **Jeff Anderson** won a battle royal.
(01-26-96)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Spellbinder** & **Tony Williams** beat **The Border Patrol** ... **Miss Texas** beat **Susan Sapphire** ... **Randy Hales** defeated **Brandon Baxter** ... **Brian Christopher** beat **Jesse James Armstrong** ... Tag team champions **PG-13** defeated **Doug Gilbert** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **PG-13**, **Brian Christopher** & **Kamala** defeated **Robert Gibson**, **Tracey Smothers**, & **Jesse James Armstrong** in a marathon match.
(01-24-96)

—Ed Westerly

FLAG POND—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Old Flag Pond School: **Dr. Love** beat **The Scorpion** ... **Sgt. Mike Flair** defeated **Cotton Eye Joe** ... **The TNT Express** wrestled **The Troublemakers** to a double-disqualification ... **Jeff Storm** defeated junior heavyweight champion **Terror** to win the belt ... Tag team champions **Chris Steelheart** & **Allen King** defeated **Kevin Acres** & **The Stallion** ... **Ricky Harrison** defeated **Jamie Anderson**.
(01-20-96)

—Bill Needham

LEWISBURG—NWF Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Steve Neely** & **The Nightmare** defeated **The Devil's Disciples**, **Dante** & **Damon** ... **Otto Von Brauner** defeated North American champion **Scorpion** by countout ... **Chris Kern** defeated **The New Mephisto** ... **Luther** beat **King Snake** by disqualification ... **Shane** & **Steve Morton** defeated **King Snake** & **Chris Kern**.
(01-13-96)

—Steve Bryant

SOUTH PITTSBURG—ABWF at the National Guard Armory: **Billy Montana** defeated **C.M. Quick** ... **Mike Mercedes** beat **Glamour Boy** ... **Black Terminator** defeated **The Patriot** ... **Larry Santo** & **Bobby Hayes** beat **Billy Montana** & **The Pain Master** when Santo pinned Pain Master.
(01-13-96)

—Bill Needham

TEXAS

LIVINGSTON—IFWF at the High School: **The Handsome Stranger** beat **G.Q. Knight** ... **Dapper Dan** defeated **Chance** ... **Austin Rhodes** defeated **War Dog** ... **Kahuna** defeated **The Evil Clown** ... **Bubba Monroe** defeated **Bubba Dixon** ... **Mark Von Erich** defeated **Tarzan Taylor**.
(01-13-96)

—Brett Wolfe

DIBALL—World Class Wrestling Federation at the Civic Center: **Cobra Mask** defeated **The Handsome Stranger** ... **G.Q. Knight** beat **Chance** ... **Mark Von Erich** defeated **Kahuna** ... **The Evil Clown** and **Humongous** battled to a no-contest ... **Buddy Dixon** defeated **Bullman Downs** to capture the Texas brass knuckles title.
(01-12-96)

—Brett Wolfe

VERMONT

BURLINGTON—WWF at the Memorial Auditorium: **Savio Vega** pinned **Barry Horowitz** ... **Goldust** pinned **Bob Holly** ... **Henry Godwinn** pinned **Isaac Yankem** with a rollup ... **Fatu** defeated **Bob Backlund**. After the match, Backlund put Fatu in a cross-face chicken wing ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Skip** & **Zip** (with **Sunny**) ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** defeated **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** & **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Davey Boy Smith** by disqualification when **Jeff Jarrett** interfered ... **The Undertaker** & **Bret Hart** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Yokozuna**.
(01-08-96)

—Mike Blair

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

EPIPHANIE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the Sports Center: **Dream Killer** defeated **The Gentleman** ... **Alexander the Magnificent** beat **Iceman** ... Tag team champions **The Hangmen** beat **The Chameleon** & **Syl Dancer** ... **Lucifer** beat **Floyd Broffman** by disqualification ... **Golem the Giant** & **The Rebel** beat **The Chameleon** & **Syl Dancer** .. **Ivan the Terrible** defeated **The Ninja** ... **Mark the Grizzly** defeated **Headhunter II** ... **Black Bear** pinned **Crazy Eddie** in a snowpile in a "falls-count-anywhere-in-Epiphanie" match. Afterward, Crazy Eddie was forced to unmask, revealing that he is **The Rebel**.
(01-20-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

EPIPHANIE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the Sports Center: **Chameleon**, **Steph Belanger**, & **Black Bear** defeated **Golem the Giant**, **El Diablero**, & **Dream Killer** in an elimination match ... **Cowboy Bob** & **Boris Khrushchev** beat tag team champions **The New Jet Set** to win the belts. After the match, Cowboy Bob announced that he was retiring and **Syl Dancer** would take his place as co-holder of the tag team title with Khrushchev ... **Rebel** defeat Intercity champion **Iceman** to win the title ... **The Hardrocks** beat **The New Quebec Generation** ... **Phil Belanger** beat **Frank Blues** ... **Black Bear** won a 30-man battle royal.
(01-07-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—River City Wrestling at the St. Norbert Community Center: **E.Z. Ryder** defeated **Steve Stryker** by countout. Unhappy with the decision, Ryder ordered referee **Mike Myers** to immediately give him a rematch; he got one and pinned Stryker in less than 30 seconds ... **Chad Ripley** defeated **Bobby Collins** ... Tag team champions **Vance Nevada** & **Bugsy Sluggliano** defeated **Yogi Donovan** & **Aug Doggie Dogg** ... **Robby Royce** beat **Brian Jewel** by disqualification when **Vance Nevada** & **Bugsy Sluggliano** interfered ... **Robby Royce**, **Yogi Donovan**, & **Aug Doggie Dogg** defeated **Brian Jewel**, **Vance Nevada**, & **Bugsy Sluggliano**.
(01-19-96)

—Verne May

MONTREAL,QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the NDR Arena: **The Wild Things** beat **Phil Belanger** & **Dream Killer** ... **Black Bear** & **The Warlock** beat **Alexander the Magnificent** & **Ivan the Terrible** ... **The New Quebec Generation** defeated **The Hard Rocks** ... **Rebel** beat **Steph Belanger** ... **The Hangmen** beat tag team champions **Syl Dancer** & **Boris Khrushchev** to capture the title ... **Mark the Grizzly** beat **Golem the Giant.**
(01-14-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

MONTREAL, QUEBEC—WWF at the Montreal Forum: **Fatu** defeated **Bob Backlund** ... **Skip** & **Zip** defeated **Bob Holly** & **Aldo Montoya** ... **Duke Droese** beat **Barry Horowitz** ... **Marty Jannetty** defeated **Mo** ... **Goldust** beat **Henry Godwinn** ... **Ahmed Johnson** defeated **Isaac Yankem** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** ... **Razor Ramon** & **Savio Vega** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** & **Jeff Jarrett** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** ... World champion **Bret Hart** defeated **Diesel** in a steel cage match.
(01-12-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

CORNWALL, ONTARIO—WWF at the Civic Center: **Savio Vega** beat **Barry Horowitz** ... **Henry Godwinn** defeated **Dr. Isaac Yankem** ... **Marty Jannetty** beat **Aldo Montoya** ... **Goldust** defeated **Bob Holly** ... **Fatu** defeated **Bob Backlund** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **Skip** & **Zip** ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... **Ahmed Johnson** beat **Davey Boy Smith** by disqualification ... **Bret Hart** & **The Undertaker** defeated **Yokozuna** & **Owen Hart.**
(01-09-96)

—Pierre Robert

JAPAN

HAKATA—All-Japan Pro Wrestling at Hakata Star Hall: **Steve Doll** & **Rex King** defeated **Maunukea Mossman** & **Kentaro Shiga** when Doll pinned Shiga ... **The Eagle** & **The Lacrosse** beat **Masao Inoue** & **Takao Omori** when Lacrosse pinned Inoue ... **Tamon Honda** defeated **Ryukaku Izumida** ... **Mighty Inoue, Haruka Eigen,** & **Masa Fuchi** defeated **Joel Deaton, Rusher Kimura,** & **Mitsuo Momota** when Inoue pinned Momota ... **The Patriot** & **Johnny Ace** beat **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** when Ace pinned Kikuchi ... **Kenta Kobashi** beat **Satoru Asako** ... **Mitsuharu Misawa** beat **Jun Akiyama** ... **Shohei "Giant" Baba, Toshiaki Kawada,** & **Akira Taue** beat **Stan Hansen, Gary Albright,** & **Bobby Duncum Jr.** when Taue pinned Duncum.
(01-10-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—New Japan at the Tokyo Dome: **Yuji Nagata, Shinjiro Otani,** & **Tokimitsu Ishizawa** beat **Kenichi Yamamoto, Kazushi Sakuraba,** & **Hiromitsu Kanehara** ... **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** pinned **Satoshi Kojima** ... **Jushin Liger** pinned IWGP junior heavyweight champion **Koji Kanemoto** to win the title ... **Shiro Koshinaka** defeated **Masa Chono** ... **Hiromichi Fuyuki** beat **Yoji Anjyo** ... **Kensuke Sasaki** beat **Hiroshi Hase** ... **Antonio Inoki** beat **Big Van Vader** by submission ... **Riki Choshu** beat **Masato Kakihara** ... **Shinya Hashimoto** beat **Kazuo Yamazaki** ... **Nobuhiko Takada** defeated IWGP heavyweight champion **The Great Muta** to win the title.
(01-04-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—All-Japan Women at Korakuen Hall: **Nobue Endo** & **Misae Watanabe** beat **Kayo Noumi, Mari Mogami,** & **Mina Taniyama** ... **Chapparita Asari** & **Kumiko Mackawa** beat **Yoshiko Tamura** & **Yumi Fukawa** ... **Mariko Yoshida** beat **Yuka Shima** ... **Mima Shimoda** & **Yumiko Hotta** beat **Etsako Mita** & **Takako Inoue** ... **Toshiyo Yamada** beat **Sakie Hasegawa** ... **Minami Toyota** beat **Rie Tamada** ... **Aja Kong** & **Kaoru Ito** defeated **Tomoko Watanabe** & **Kyoko Inoue.**
(01-04-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—All-Japan at Korakuen Hall: **Masao Inoue** beat **Kentaro Shiga** ... **Rex King** & **Steve Doll** beat **Maunukea Mossman** & **Yoshinari Ogawa** ... **Satoru Asako** beat **Ryukaku Izumida** ... **Giant Baba, Rusher Kimura,** & **Mitsuo Moota** beat **Mighty Inoue, Haruka Eigen,** & **Masa Fuchi** ... **The Lacrosse** & **Johnny Ace** beat **Joel Deaton** & **Gary Albright** ... **Kenta Kobashi** & **Tamon Honda** beat **Akira Taue** & **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** ... **Kentaro Shiga** won a battle royal ... **Stan Hansen** & **Bobby Duncum Jr.** beat **The Patriot** & **The Eagle** ... **Mitsuharu Misawa** & **Jun Akiyama** beat **Toshiaki Kawada** & **Takao Omori.**
(01-03-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
JUNE

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—USWA/CWA at the Louisville Gardens: USWA champion **Jimmy Valiant** defeated **Jerry Lawler** ... **Jeff Jarrett** (substituting for **Tracey Smothers**) defeated **Rockin' Randy** in 29 seconds ... CWA champion **Bill Dundee** defeated **Jeff Gaylord** ... USWA tag team champions **Sweet Daddy Falcone** & **Brickhouse Brown** (with **Reggie B. Fine**) defeated **Chris Champion** & **Mike Awesome** ... **Jeff Jarrett, Rex King,** & **Steve Doll** defeated **The Dirty White Boys** & **Ronald P. Gossett** by disqualification.
(06-01-90)

—PWI archives

LOUISIANA

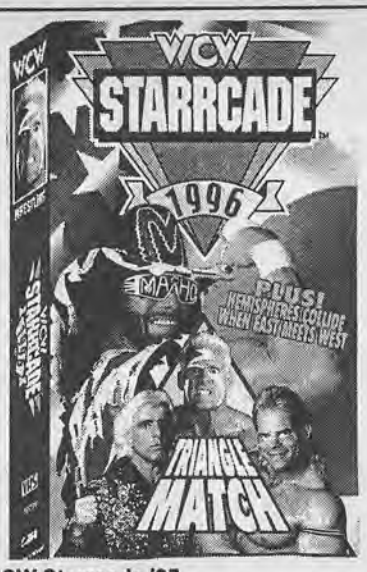
SHREVEPORT—NWA at the Municipal Auditorium: **"Cowboy" Bill Watts** & **Grizzly Smith** defeated **Dick Murdoch** & **Killer Karl Kox** in a Texas tornado match ... **Darling Dagmar** won a five-woman midget battle royal, last eliminating **Diamond Lil** ... **Vic Muehler** beat **Buck Robley** by disqualification ... **Jay Clayton** defeated **Gene Lewis** ... **Jack Curtis** defeated **Jerry Miller.**
(06-24-75)

—Ronald Zeaman

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: World champion **Bruno Sammartino** pinned **George Steele** ... **Eduardo Carpentier** defeated **Hans Mortimer** ... **Angelo Savoldi** beat **Lenny Solomon** ... **Johnny Rodz** beat **Carlos Colon** ... **Gorilla Monsoon** & **Prof. Toru Tanaka** wrestled **Victor Rivera** & **Bobo Brazil** to a draw ... **Bull Ramos** defeated **Louis Cerdan** .... **The Kentucky Butcher** defeated **Crybaby Cannon.**
(06-23-68)

—PWI archives



WCW Starrcade '95
Triangle match: Sting vs Luger vs Flair plus USA's toughest meet Japan's best!
3 hrs / $49.95

Send to:
T.V. Sports Video
P.O. Box 1003
Darien, CT 06820

$49.95 each plus $5.00 s&h vhs format

Visa or Mastercard call toll free
1-800-729-0360

Please send me @ $49.95 each

- ☐ WCW World War 3 '96
- ☐ WCW Bash At The Beach '95
- ☐ WCW Starrcade '95
- ☐ WCW Fall Brawl '95

Please indicate method of payment

- ☐ Check or money order payable to TV Sports Video
- ☐ Visa /MasterCard

Exp Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State Zip _____

Videos _____
Tax for CT & NY _____
P & H $5.00 $5.00
Total $ _____

Allow up to 4 weeks delivery. Foreign orders include $7.00 for each tape in addition to regular s&h charges.
International money orders only. No PAL

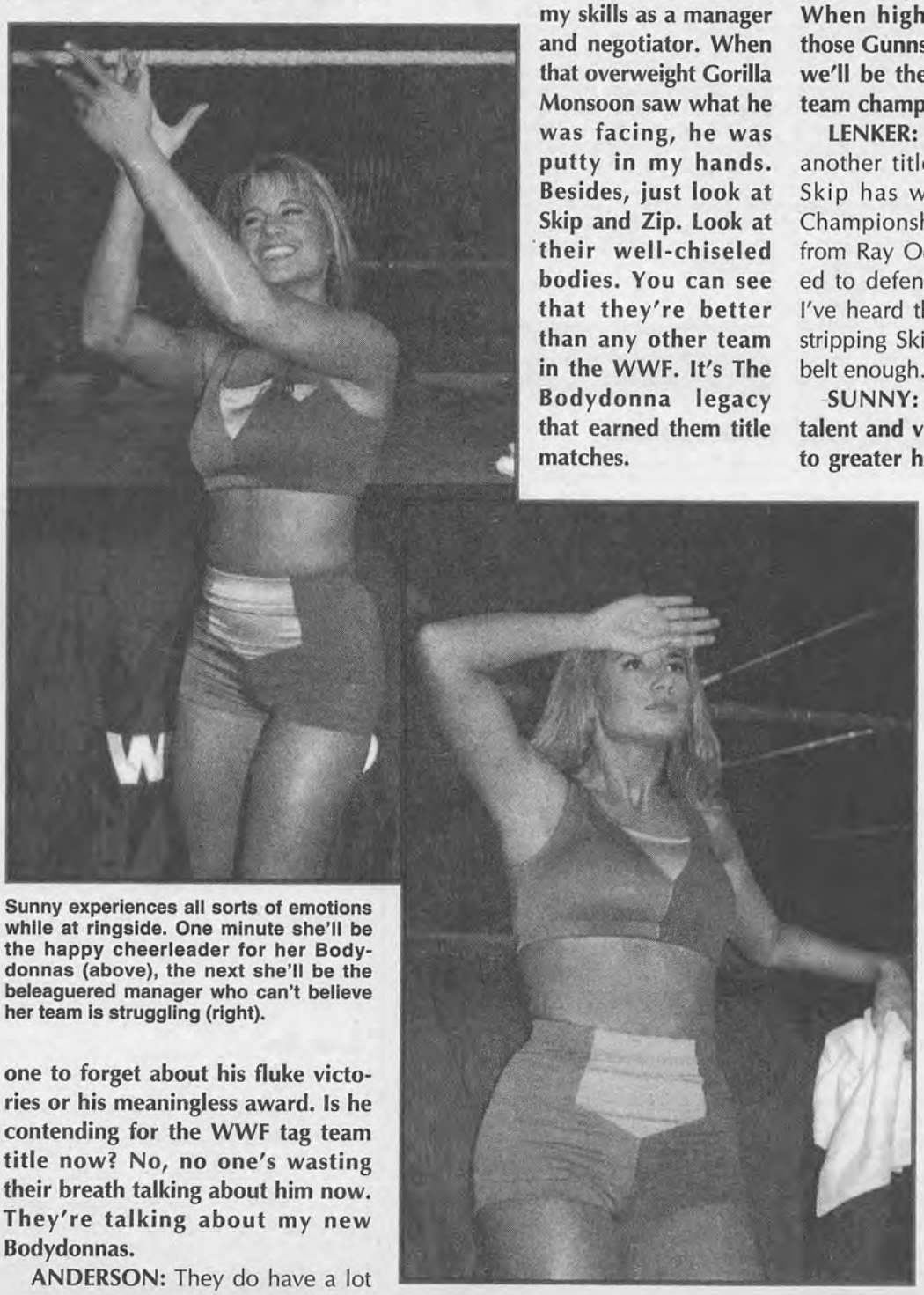
(Continued from page 39)

LENKER: Good point. But still, you have to consider where Horowitz came from. His victories in the WWF were few and far between before Skip.

SUNNY: Strictly a flash in the pan. It didn't take long for everyone to forget about his fluke victories or his meaningless award. Is he contending for the WWF tag team title now? No, no one's wasting their breath talking about him now. They're talking about my new Bodydonnas.

ANDERSON: They do have a lot of people talking. How could a tag team that had been together for only a few weeks get matches for The Smoking Gunns' WWF tag team title? One of them was at the Royal Rumble, a major pay-per-view.

SUNNY: That all comes down to my skills as a manager and negotiator. When that overweight Gorilla Monsoon saw what he was facing, he was putty in my hands. Besides, just look at Skip and Zip. Look at their well-chiseled bodies. You can see that they're better than any other team in the WWF. It's The Bodydonna legacy that earned them title matches.



Sunny experiences all sorts of emotions while at ringside. One minute she'll be the happy cheerleader for her Bodydonnas (above), the next she'll be the beleaguered manager who can't believe her team is struggling (right).

MANKIEWICZ: But your team has yet to beat the Gunns.

SUNNY: All in due time, honey. Again the wheels of politics in the WWF spin against us. The jealousy and resentment from these so-called superstars is everywhere. When high noon finally comes, those Gunns will be out-drawn, and we'll be the new WWF World tag team champions.

LENKER: But you currently have another title to defend. Now that Skip has won the Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling U.S. title from Ray Odyssey, he'll be expected to defend that as well. In fact, I've heard that PCW is considering stripping Skip for not defending the belt enough.

SUNNY: Not a concern. Skip's talent and versatility will carry him to greater heights. Odyssey was an easy win for him. We'll defend it when it fits into our busy WWF schedule. If they want to strip Skip, it's their loss. They'd never have a champion of his talent again.

ANDERSON: You say greater heights. Beyond the WWF tag and PCW singles titles, what do you have in store for Skip and Zip?

SUNNY: I could easily see Skip holding the WWF World title, Zip holding the Intercontinental title, while both hold the tag team title. It would be a Bodydonna monopoly.

MANKIEWICZ: *(Sarcastically)* Then I guess you'll get in the

Sunny cheers on Skip as he takes a cheap shot at Barry Horowitz. Though Skip lost numerous times to the former prelim wrestler in 1995, Sunny believes those dark days are all behind him.

ring and start wrestling, too, right?

SUNNY: I'm a lover not a fighter. Don't you agree, boys?

MANKIEWICZ: While my colleagues wipe the drool from their chin, let me ask you this: Are their more Bodydonnas out there? Do Skip and Zip have any other lookalikes out there? Rip? Blip? Drip?

SUNNY: You're a very clever lady, Brandi. A little too clever! You never know what's in my bag of tricks. Just when you think I've shown you everything, I show you a little bit more. Being a Bodydonna is all about stamina and staying power. You have to be able to put yourself to the very extremes that wrestling has to offer. Sunny, Skip, and Zip will be up to any and all challenges.

ANDERSON: You've been an announcer, a manager, and now, I guess, a pinup model. What is next for you personally?

SUNNY: If that's a request for a date, you'll have to do better than that. In fact, you'll have to go through Skip and Zip. If it's a question about my career, then the sky is the limit. I have proven that I am more than just good looks and a great body. I've got a mind that will lead The Bodydonnas through the stratosphere of the WWF!

MANKIEWICZ: What do you say to those who still don't take you seriously as a manager? Those who think that there isn't much behind the beauty. A lot of times when fans talk about you, they talk about seeing you in a bubble bath during telecasts of *Raw*.

SUNNY: Hey, I bet there are thousands of red-blooded American males out there who tune in just hoping to see me in the bathtub. But all you have to do is take a long look at my track record. I've managed champions in the past and, with Skip and Zip, I'll do more of it in the future. In fact, you better polish up next year's Manager of the Year, Tag Team of the Year, and Wrestler of the Year awards, because they're all coming home to The Bodydonnas.

ANDERSON: On behalf of Dave, Brandi, and myself, I want to thank you for taking the time out of that busy schedule of yours to meet with us.

LENKER: Yes, Sunny. Thank you.

SUNNY: From the looks on the faces of you two, I can safely say it was your pleasure. Brandi, if you need some pointers, call me.

MANKIEWICZ: Don't wait for the phone to ring.

SUNNY: I never do. □

"We can't afford masks."

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
☐ THE WRESTLER
☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
☐ SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING
☐ WRESTLING SUPERSTARS
☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

Clip this form and send to:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

2732/08-94

Did you ever think about how YOU could get in Pro Wrestling?

Maybe as a wrestler, valet or manager?
Or even in a non-wrestling position?

OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WRESTLING?

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful book is written by three professionals active in the wrestling business, who between them have worked for every major wrestling association including the NWA, USWA, SMW, WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, how to get various jobs, what your chances are – and how to better those odds! This book explains things about wrestling you never knew, but *need to know!* • Details over 50 different jobs possible in wrestling • Lists addresses of ALL U.S. promotions and wrestling schools • Tells where to order boots, tights, etc. in the U.S. & U.K.

Updated 1996 Edition Now Shipping!

Inside Secrets on How YOU Can Enter The Exciting World of Pro Wrestling!

Price of book is only $15, including postage.
Add $5 for outside U.S. Send cashier's check, money order or cash for immediate shipment!

PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK
2770 Lenox Rd. NE, Ste. 200 • Atlanta, GA 30324

ringside

(Continued from page 7)

championship has changed hands again. **Konnan** beat **One Man Gang** for the belt in Canton, Ohio, on January 29. Gang was verbally thrashed by manager **"Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan** afterward. As of this writing, the **Dungeon of Doom** did not have control of a single title in WCW ... **Rob Van Dam** has had an exciting series of matches against **Sabu** in ECW this winter. Van Dam's got great moves; I hope he stays in ECW full-time ... **Stan Hansen** and **Gary Albright** have captured the PWF and All-Japan International tag team belts from **Akira Taue** and **Toshiaki Kawada**. "Me and Albright are better than me and anyone else I ever teamed with," said Hansen. "He's a butt-kicker, the perfect kind of partner for me!"

It came as no shock to me when **Woman** turned against Randy Savage in WCW and allied herself with Ric Flair ... **Devon Storm**, a regular in several Eastern independents for the last few years, has started wrestling in WCW ...**Bam Bam Bigelow** is negotiating for future matches in ECW ... **Raven** is the new holder of the Extreme Championship Wrestling heavyweight title. He beat **The Sandman** for the belt ... **Bart Gunn** teamed with **Henry Godwinn** for WWF matches in India in February. They did really well as a team, too, beating **Owen Hart** and **Yokozuna** several times. I don't think you can expect those to team regularly, though. Henry and **Phineas I. Godwinn**, who are now managed by **Hillbilly Jim**, are looking for shots at the WWF World tag team title, which is held by Bart and **Billy Gunn**. "We can be buddies with them Gunn boys and scuffle as well," Henry told me. "Them belts is what we want, and

A hard-fought victory over The Sandman in January made Raven the new ECW heavyweight champion. Sandman, by the way, now has a new female in his corner: Missy Hyatt.

Former NWA champion Dory Funk Jr. and current titleholder Dan Severn present Tommy Gilbert with a special NWA belt, in honor of his son Eddie. It was the highlight on an emotially charged evening.

Memorial Brawl" luncheon and card on February 3 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. **Jerry Lawler**, **Tommy Rich**, **Jim Cornette**, **Debbie Combs**, and **Dory Funk Jr.** were just some of the wrestling greats who turned out to honor Eddie, who died in March of 1995. Eddie's brother, **Doug**, was there, as was his father, **Tommy**, and mother, **Peggy**. NWA promoter **Dennis Coraluzzo** moved the family to tears when he presented them with a special NWA belt.

"My boy always wanted to be NWA champion," Tommy Gilbert said. "This is the most moving moment of our lifetime." Later in the evening, Tommy Gilbert wrestled a legends match against Dory Funk Jr. that ended in a time-limit draw.

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □

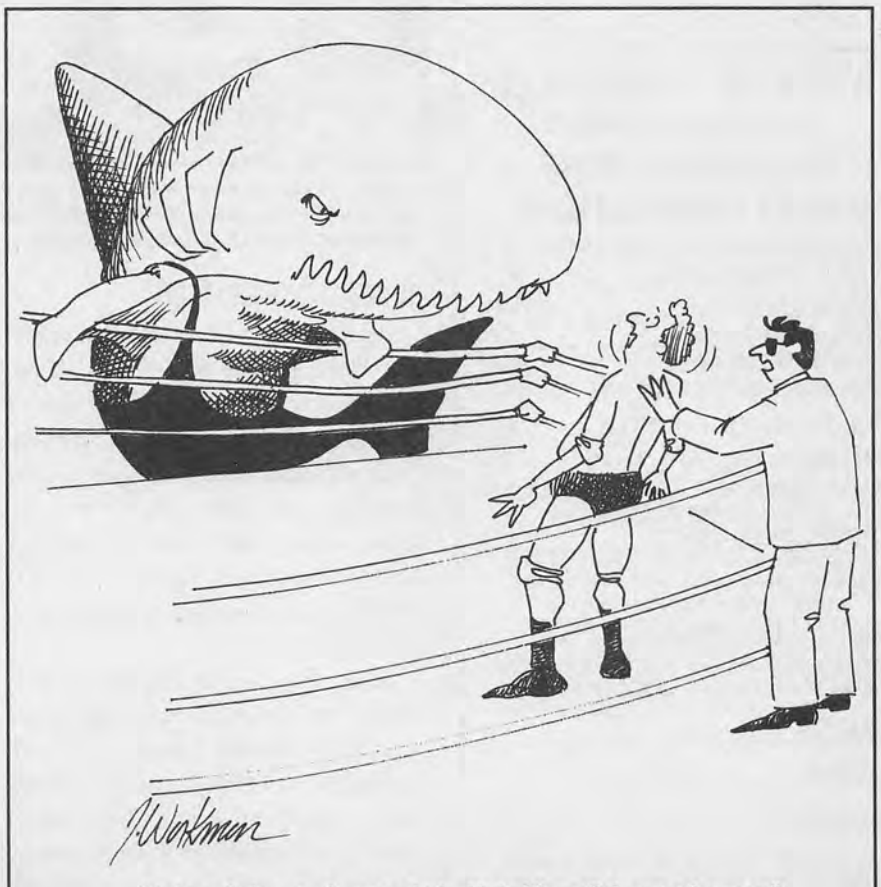
we ain't gonna let friendship stand in the way of us gettin' 'em!"

Missy Hyatt has finally returned to wrestling. She had shown up to watch several ECW cards in Queens, New York, this winter, but it turned out she was more than an impartial observer. Sandman introduced her as his new manager in February. "When Woman split out of ECW, I knew I had to have another class A lady with wrestling smarts in my corner," Sandman told me as he blew cigarette smoke in my face. "Who's better than the gorgeous Missy Hyatt?"

"He's a wrestling genius," Hyatt said of Sandman. "You rarely see athletes who possess a combination of brains and brawn like Sandman does. When I get him to stop smoking, he'll be unstoppable!"

Hear that, Sandman?

It was great to see such a large turnout at the "**Eddie Gilbert**



"Like a fish out of water, kid. He's like a fish out of water."

COMPUTER
WRESTLING
IBM PC
THE MOST REALISTIC STRATEGY/SIMULATION COMPUTER GAMES ON THE MARKET TODAY!
RAMPAGE WRESTLING
Over 400 professional wrestler's from the past and present • Match the champions of former eras against today's best • Singles matches, tag team, 3 man tag, rumbles – with up to 30 men in the ring at once, cage matches, war matches, or create your own style of match • More than 100 possible moves and holds • Head to head or computer opponent • Won-lost records, complete print out of match action • Add wrestler's, rate yourself and your friends!
ORDER TODAY!
Mail check or money order for $39.95 each.
You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card.
Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling.
For more information, call or write for a free brochure.
1-800-477-7032
LANCE HAFFNER GAMES
P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224

WANNA BE A WRESTLER?
PHONE 904-934-8435
SKULLKRUSHERS
WRESTLING SCHOOL
TEACHERS*EXOTIC ADRIAN+MISSLINDA
WRESTLING MASKS $15
SPANDEX TIGHTS $45
SPANDEX TRUNKS $30
SPANDEX LEOTARDS $40
STATE WAIST-INSIDE LEG SIZE+COLOR CHOICE
SKULLKRUSHER T-SHIRTS $10
SKULLKRUSHER TANK TOPS $10
SKULLKRUSHER SWEATSHIRT $15
ADULT AND KIDS SIZE AVAILABLE
WRESTLING VIDEOS $15
SEND $1 P.AND H. FOR NEW COMPLETE LIST
BOOTS*GOWNS*BELTS*LEOTARDS*TIGHTS
TRUNKS*KNEE-PADS*ELBOW PADS
PLUS LADY WRESILERS AND KIDS WEAR
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PLUS $3 POSTAGE + HANDLING ON ALL ORDERS TO BIZARE BAZZAR
P.O.BOX 6188.GULF BREEZE FL 32561
NAME *
ADDRESS *
CITY/STATE/ZIP *
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BIZARE BAZZAR
FOR THE WORLDS BEST WRESTLING WEAR

between falls

(Continued from page 5)

Tommy Dreamer often ends up a bloody mess after ECW matches. Reader Jenny Miller, an ECW fan, would like to see more wrestling in ECW and less violence.

BEYOND THE GLITTER

Wrestling is overflowing with colorful characters. That is why I find all the criticism of Goldust unnecessarily harsh and even hypocritical. Granted, I was shocked when I saw him for the first time, but that, I think, was the desired effect. We need a slap in the face to make us appreciate that Dustin Rhodes is an adult with a mind of his own.

From day one in his pro career, Dustin was not permitted to be "just a rookie" or develop his own style, all because he was always compared to his father, Dusty. Now he is branded by some as an ungrateful son because he doesn't look the way fans expect an offspring of Dusty Rhodes to look.

Goldust doesn't have a problem; the problem lies with those who refuse to allow "Dusty's little boy" to grow up. He deserves to be respected, not criticized, because it takes a strong man to adopt such a controversial persona. Let's not lose sight of the real issue: Gold tights, platinum wigs, and sequined robes can't outshine Goldust's talent. With apologies to Shakespeare, a Rhodes by any other name would still wrestle like a champion.

H.M. CARLIN
Lodi, NJ

GIVE HOGAN A BREAK

I think Hulk Hogan has been pathetic in the last year or so and is deserving of much of the criticism he has received. While I am glad that the fans are finally realizing Hogan is no longer the biggest star in wrestling, I am also somewhat saddened by this at the same time. Have we all forgotten the past? Where would wrestling be today without Hulk Hogan? Let's admit it: We all wore those stupid Hulk Hogan friendship bracelets and went crazy when he put his hand behind his ear or did his usual routine many years ago. I don't think we need to worship him anymore, but I do think we need to give the man a break; he is one of the reasons wrestling is as popular as it is today.

KEVIN DERN
Edgewood, KY □

ALL-NEW QUESTIONS ON LINE NOW!

WHY HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN THE PWI CHALLENGE?

NOW AVAILABLE IN U.S. CANADA U.K.

WIN $100* CASH PRIZE

PLUS: Each month, three runners-up will receive a free PWI subscription!

Take the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CHALLENGE and go head to head with the editors of PWI in the trivia match of your life. If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly—without getting pinned—you can earn the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and win $100* or a PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED subscription!

CALL NOW!

1-900-288-7526

1-900-451-3676

0891 299 760

Cost per minute in the United States is $1.49 per. Cost per minute in Canada is $1.99 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times, incl. VAT. Kids, get your parents' permission.

This service is available on both rotary-dialed and touch-tone phones.

ALL-NEW QUESTIONS!

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next $100* winner!

Sabu is the protege of what legendary ring madman?
1) Abdullah The Butcher
2) The Sheik
3) Pampero Firpo
4) Cactus Jack

Paul Orndorff played pro football for what NFL team?
1) New Orleans Saints
2) Dallas Cowboys
3) Los Angeles Rams
4) New York Jets

True or False: Razor Ramon attended high school in Germany
1) True
2) False

Steve Austin was the first graduate of what professional wrestler's wrestling school?
1) Ultimate Warrior
2) Larry Sharpe
3) Chris Adams
4) Killer Kowalski

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the $100!*

WRESTLING CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS

Call as often as you like. The contest begins January 1, 1996 and through April 1, 1996. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute in the United States, $1.99 in Canada, and 49p (39p cheap rate) in the United Kingdom. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333, USA. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one $100* winner. (*Or for U.K. winners, the equivalent in pounds sterling at the time the winner is selected.) From January 1, 1996, until April 1, 1996, a total of 12 PWI six-issue subscriptions (retail value $15 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

4145/11-95

(Continued from page 8)

After springing from the shoulders of his partner, 911, Rey Misterio Jr. completes a "Frankensteiner" against Perry Saturn, who is being lifted by his partner, John Kronus.

Lighter-weight competition is not a new concept to wrestling. In Mexico, wrestling is aligned in much the same manner as boxing—with wrestlers classified by weight. In his home country, Misterio is considered a welterweight. There is certainly no problem with one welterweight wrestling another welterweight, but, unfortunately, if Misterio wants to expand his horizons and wrestle in the U.S., he's going to have to wrestle bigger men.

"That's something I knew coming in," Misterio said after a recent ECW card in Philadelphia.

What Misterio cannot possibly know is what the quality of his life in the future will be. He may be able to make 250-pounders dizzy with his leaps and spins, but at some point during every match, that 250-pounder is going to catch him and pound him.

"That's a given," Misterio said. "Every match I'm in is going to come down to speed vs. strength. That's what the fans love."

For the present, Misterio is giddy with his own success. After three years of wrestling exclusively south of the border, Misterio quite literally flew north. He first wrestled in the U.S. along with his fellow AAA wrestlers, but then ventured to ECW. If Philly is indeed "The City Of Brotherly Love," it was apparent right off that the homeboys didn't consider Misterio a brother. ECW wrestlers are proud of their worldwide reputation for toughness. Thuggery hasn't thrived like this in this town since the "Broad Street Bullies" ruled hockey in the early-'70s. One of my lasting hockey memories is that of the Flyers' Dave Schultz beating the tar out of the Rangers' Dale Rolfe while Rolfe's cowardly teammates stood and watched.

The difference here is that 120 of Misterio's 140 pounds is heart. He'll fight back with everything he has. He may be well-studied in the English language, but he hasn't learned the word "quit" yet. Trouble is, even when Misterio wins, he loses. Little by little, his body is being worn down by the rigors of battle. As his resistance decreases, he'll be forced to give more and more of himself, and that cycle is only going to speed up his demise.

Am I being overly pessimistic? I don't think so. We are in uncharted waters here, but logic dictates that a man of 140 pounds like Misterio or even a man of 212 pounds with a slight frame like Kid cannot withstand the punishment dished out by true heavyweights over the long haul.

Never in the history of the sport has the climate existed whereby men the size of Misterio and Kid were given such opportunities. Their current level of success (Misterio was ranked number 18 in the "*PWI* 500"; Kid ranked 29th) will doubtlessly encourage more lighter-weight wrestlers to come to the U.S. to try to cash in. Perhaps one day in the future we will have enough lighter-weight wrestlers in this country to make weight classes a viable option to the heavyweights.

Until then, the Rey Misterios and 1-2-3 Kids of the world should read their own scouting reports, and take heed.

Thwack! □

The 1-2-3 Kid goes airborne to deliver a spinning backkick to the face of 6'8" Razor Ramon.

A COLLECTOR'S EXTRAVAGANZA!

March 1991

Every wrestling fan knows that *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is the leading wrestling magazine in the world today, and no issues of *PWI* are more coveted than our incredible special issues. For a limited time only, you can complete your collection of these historic color-packed editions for only $5 per copy! Supplies are very limited, so order today!

December 1994

SEPTEMBER 1988 An 80-page edition celebrating the supercards of 1988: WrestleMania IV, the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament, AWA's Rage in the Cage, and the first-ever Clash of the Champions.

MARCH 1990 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1989—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '89 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1989, predictions for 1990, and more!

MARCH 1991 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1990—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '90 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1990, and predictions for 1991.

MARCH 1992 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1991—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '91 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1991, and predictions for 1992.

AUGUST 1992 All slick, all color! This 88-page special includes extensive coverage of WrestleMania VIII, plus a bonus photo section detailing the career of Hulk Hogan in photos!

MARCH 1993 A 100-page all-slick, all-color edition including: "1992—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '92 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1992, and predictions for 1993.

AUGUST 1993 An 88-page edition celebrating the supercards of 1993: WrestleMania IX and WCW's first-ever card in Manhattan. Plus: Results of the first-ever "*PWI* Poll" of wrestling's insiders!

MARCH 1994 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1993—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '93 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1993, and predictions for 1994.

JUNE 1994 This 88-page special edition features a bonus section: Wrestling insiders answer 50 crucial questions in the 1994 *"PWI* Poll!" Plus: exclusive photos of Sting vs. Hogan! Yes–Sting vs. Hogan!

SEPTEMBER 1994 A spectacular 88-page celebration of 15 years of *PWI!* Included: The best and worst of the *PWI* years, major title changes of the *PWI* years, a year-by-year review—in color!—and much more!

DECEMBER 1994 This 88-page collector's edition features the fourth annual installment of the "*PWI* 500"—a comprehensive listing of the top 500 men in the sport! Plus: A special Hogan-Flair poll!

MARCH 1995 Our annual 100-page year-end extravaganza! Included: "1994—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '94 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1994, and predictions for 1995.

ONLY $5 EACH!

- ❒ *SEPTEMBER 1988*
- ❒ *MARCH 1990*
- ❒ *MARCH 1991*
- ❒ *MARCH 1992*
- ❒ *AUGUST 1992*
- ❒ *MARCH 1993*
- ❒ *AUGUST 1993*
- ❒ *MARCH 1994*
- ❒ *JUNE 1994*
- ❒ *SEPTEMBER 1994*
- ❒ *DECEMBER 1994*
- ❒ *MARCH 1995*

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $2 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the special editions of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** I've checked.
I am enclosing $_____ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

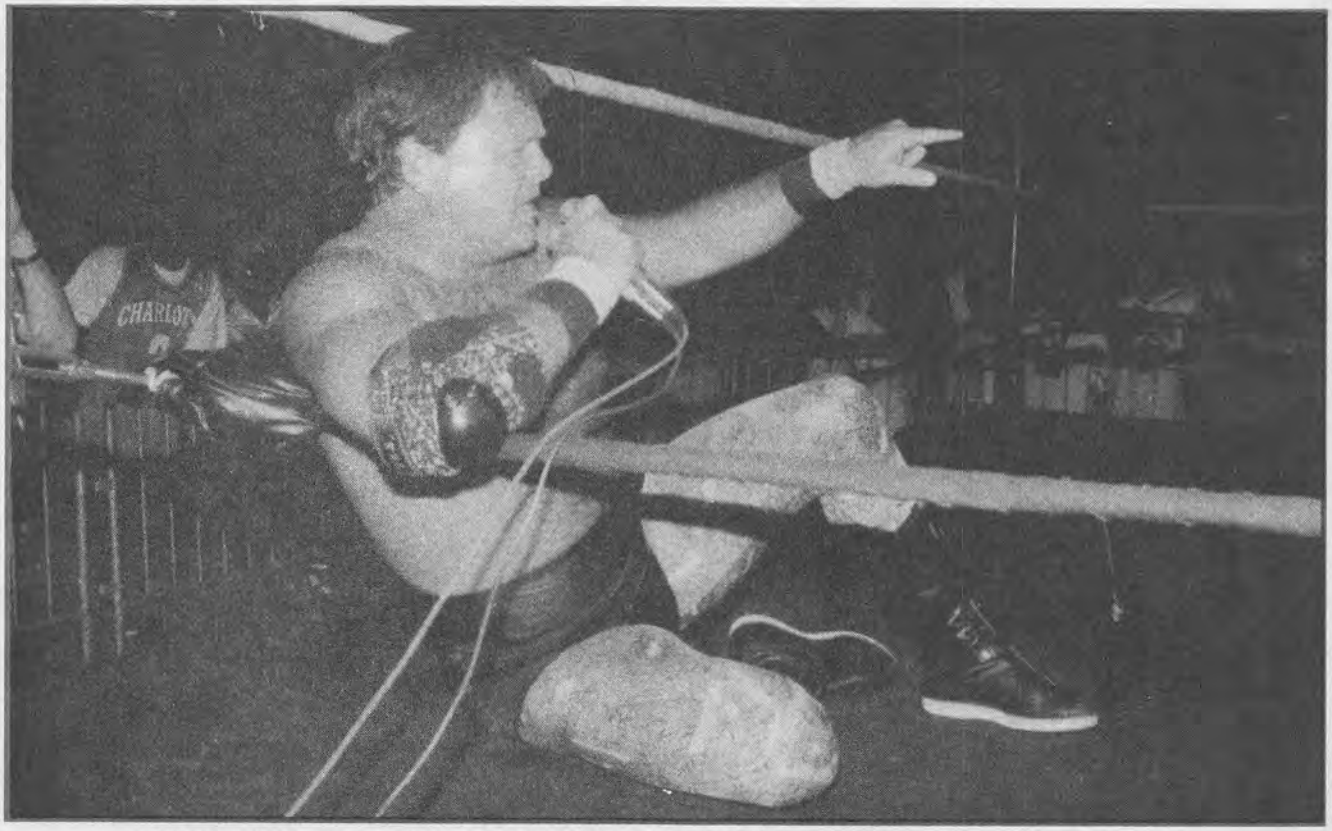
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

3831/06-95

win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)



Jerry Lawler is often accused of being a coward in the WWF, but if it weren't for Shawn Michaels, "The King" might have parlayed his cowardice into victory at the Royal Rumble. Andy Rodriguez thinks that was wrong.

Michaels, who wouldn't have had time to recover from the shock.

"Sounds good," Lawler said. "Maybe you should be my manager."

No thanks, Jerry. I have enough work just trying to get wrestlers to own up to their own schemes.

According to Royal Rumble rules, Roberts was totally justified in bringing that giant snake to the ring and unleashing it on the combatants. Although the rules clearly prohibit foreign objects and managerial interference, they say nothing about snakes and other animals. If one of the wrestlers was scared enough to dive over the top rope to safety, he would have been eliminated.

Roberts said he knew that.

"That was the whole idea," Roberts said. "That and to scare the daylights out of Lawler and everyone else."

As schemes go, Roberts' was a success, Lawler's a failure.

But it's time for the WWF to change the Royal Rumble ground rules.

Rule one: Once you enter the ring, you have to stay there. Leave for more than 30 seconds and you're automatically eliminated.

Rule two: Bring nothing to the ring but yourself. Leave home your manager, all foreign objects, and any pets. It's the Royal Rumble, not the Royal Circus.

Rule three: Don't just sit there. Wrestle. Failure to make contact with another wrestler for 60 consecutive seconds should result in a disqualification. Otherwise, a future Royal Rumble might resemble a junior high school dance: You know, boys on one side, girls on the other side, an empty dance floor in the middle, and both sides waiting for the other to make the first move.

It's easy to see how the Royal Rumble usually goes off without a hitch: The wrestlers never bother to check the rules. Lawler and Roberts did, and look what happened. Lawler hid, while Roberts unleashed a snake attack. (My colleague Dave Rosenbaum, who suffers from ophidiophobia, complained that if Roberts returns full-time, he will no longer be able to attend live WWF cards.)

Unfortunately, things will only get worse unless the WWF takes corrective action.

It's simple. □

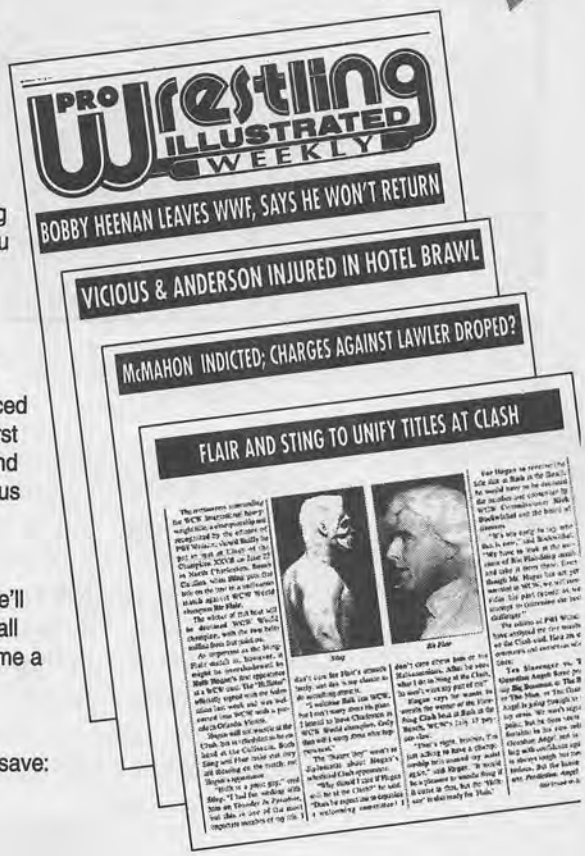
GET ALL THE NEWS–FAST & FIRST! SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO THE NEW...

Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly

So many of you have written to tell us that you'd love to subscribe to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*, but that it was a bit too costly. Well, we've responded to your input, changed the format just a bit, and have cut the price by just about a third!

WE'VE CUT THE PRICE, BUT NOT THE INFORMATION!

WOW! SAVE UP TO 50%!


Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly
BOBBY HEENAN LEAVES WWF, SAYS HE WON'T RETURN
VICIOUS & ANDERSON INJURED IN HOTEL BRAWL
McMAHON INDICTED; CHARGES AGAINST LAWLER DROPED?
FLAIR AND STING TO UNIFY TITLES AT CLASH

STILL PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

Each weekly issue still contains the latest news and gossip, a calendar of upcoming cards, ratings, transactions, and a comprehensive compilation of match results! You get all this—each and every week!—in a format that keeps you on top of today's wrestling news *today!*

FIRST WITH THE NEWS!

New efforts have been made to get *PWI Weekly* to you earlier than ever so all the news is as fresh as can be. With the exception of holidays, *PWI Weekly* will be placed in the U.S. mail for first-class delivery each Wednesday morning, so you'll be the first to know about the title changes, the big match signings, the major controversies, and the triumphs and tragedies that occurred throughout the wrestling world that previous week.

STILL NOT SURE?

Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly*? No problem! Just send us $1.95 and we'll send you a copy of *PWI Weekly* hot off the press! We're certain that once you see all the news, features, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll want to become a subscriber. (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-issue orders.)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

PWI Weekly is cover-priced at $1.95 per issue, and we offer you three big ways to save:

- 17 weekly issues for just $19.99, a 40% savings off the cover price
- 34 weekly issues for just $34.99, a 45% savings off the cover price
- 52 weekly issues for just $49.99, a 50% savings off the cover price

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

☐ NEW
☐ RENEWAL

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card number: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

YES! I want to be the first with all the news! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

☐ 17 issues for just $19.99, **a 40% savings!**

☐ 34 issues for just $34.99, **a 45% savings!**

☐ 52 issues for just $49.99, **a 50% savings!**

☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe. Enclosed please find a check or money order for $1.95

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT_____

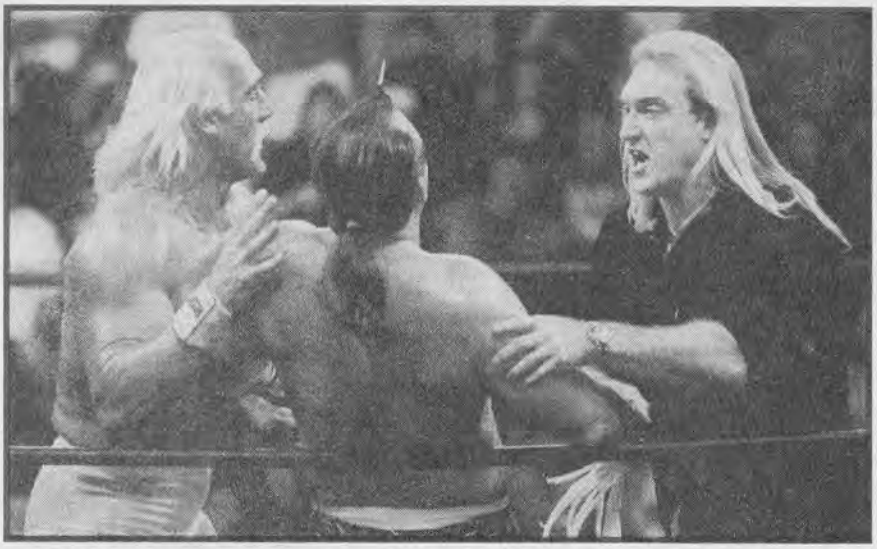
CITY _____STATE____ZIP_____

Offer good in the U.S. and Canda only. Foreign airmail orders: $2.65 for single issue; $32.74 for 17 issues; $60.49 for 34 issues; $88.99 for 52 issues. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to 8 weeks for subscriptions to start.

3835/06-95

off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)



Kevin Greene flexed his muscles at Clash of the Champions XXXII when he helped Mr. Hogan clear the ring of some of his enemies. Too bad he didn't play such a prominent role at Super Bowl XXX.

Dear Eddie,

Who do you think is the best new wrestler of the past year? It has to be Goldust by a wide margin, don't you think? I mean the guy is a freak and a weirdo, and he's I-C champion! Usually the real freaky dudes can't wrestle worth a lick. Heck, maybe Goldust should even be Wrestler of the Year.

BILLY DRAKE
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Eddie,

I think Razor Ramon should be Wrestler of the Year. He has shown his versatility in singles and tag team matches. Not many other wrestlers can do both so successfully. The next step is the WWF World heavyweight championship, if he could get a title shot.

WILLIE LOPEZ
Chicago, IL

Dear Billy and Willie,

As if they were in a Shakespearean tragedy, Ramon and Goldust cross paths in "Off The Top Rope." To be or not to be Wrestler of the Year, that is the question. I'm sure, Willie, the Latino heritage you share with "El Bad Guy" buoys your opinion that Ramon should be named Wrestler of the Year. Not to suggest that you, Mr. Drake, share any of the extracurricular qualities displayed by Senor Goldust. You admire his ring skills. You have separated man and myth. Neither, I'm afraid, is quite good enough to deserve Wrestler of the Year honors. Ramon is afraid to pursue the WWF World title, while Goldust clearly showed he is not the wrestler Bret Hart is when he lost to him by submission during a recent broadcast of *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

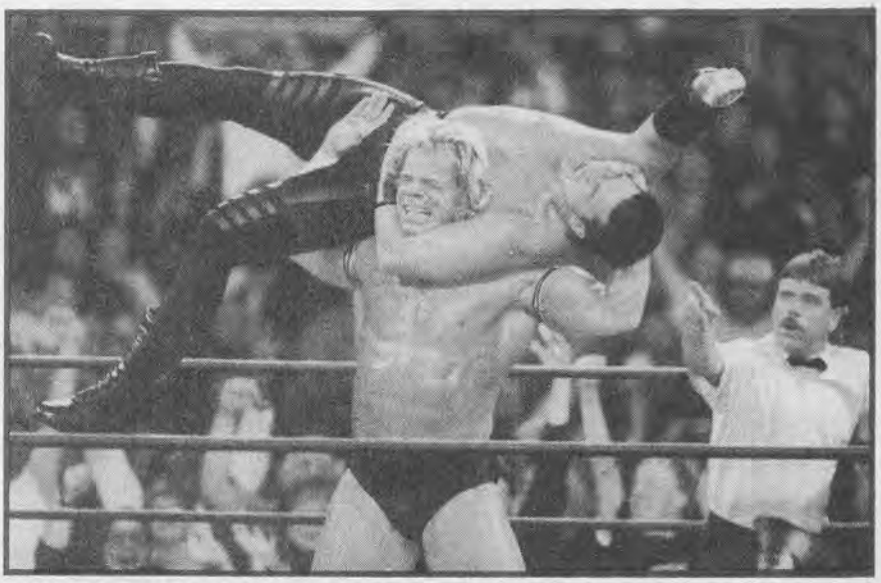
Dear Eddie,

How dare you compare the gorgeous Lex Luger to a cockroach! If you're going to use insect analogies, try the graceful, fighting bumblebee. Of course I read the cockroach column just after Thanksgiving and realize you must have had your own family on your mind.

JANE POLSTON
Waco, TX

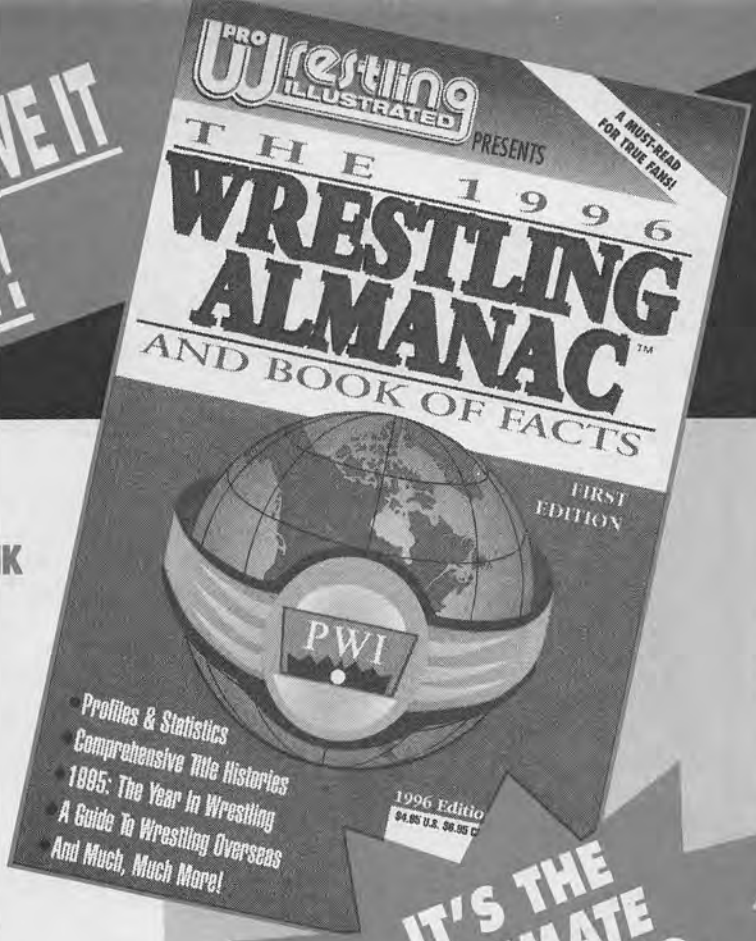
Dear Jane,

How interesting it is that the cult of Lex Luger finds a home in Waco, Texas. A cockroach is sturdy, durable—in short, a survivor that lives off garbage and droppings of others. A perfect metaphor for Mr. Luger. A bumblebee dies after it stings. If Luger had the integrity of a bumblebee, if he could lay it all on the line and risk his career and reputation, then he would win my admiration. Which, along with a token, will get you on the subway. □



It pains me so to hear that Lex Luger still has so many fans out there in the world. I made a mistake recently when I compared him to a cockroach, people. I have more respect for cockroaches.

IT'S HERE! IT'S ON SALE NOW! AND YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SEE IT!



GRAB HOLD OF THIS DIGEST-SIZED CHUNK OF HISTORY!

THE *PWI ALMANAC* HAS IT ALL!

WE'RE TALKING 196 PAGES OF REFERENCE MATERIAL *EVERY* WRESTLING FAN'S *GOTTA* HAVE!

- **A year-by-year history of wrestling!**
- **Candid profiles of 50 top stars!**
- **Comprehensive title histories of the sport's top championships–active *and* inactive!**
- **Statistics for *hundreds* of wrestlers worldwide!**
- **Results of *every* pay-per-view card ever!**
- **Analysis of the 10 biggest news stories of 1995!**
- **A look ahead to 1996!**
- **And much, *much* more!**

IT'S THE ULTIMATE WRESTLING PUBLICATION!

ON NEWSSTANDS NOW, OR ORDER BY MAIL!

SPECIAL OFFER! GET YOUR ALMANAC FREE!

Send us your *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* subscription order or renewal now–and receive the *PWI Almanac* FREE! (Simply enclose an additional $2 for postage and handling.) Offer expires July 1, 1996

☐ Please send me _____ copies of the 1996 PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WRESTLING ALMANAC. I am enclosing $_____ ($7 per copy) as payment in full.

☐ Please send me my **FREE** PWI ALMANAC! I am enclosing my $32.80 for my *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* subscription order or renewal (that's a 20% savings off the newsstand price!), **plus** an additional $2 for postage and handling–a total of $34.80.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard (credit cards for subscription orders only)

Card #:_____

Signature:_____ Expiration Date:____/____ MO/YR

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ **APT**_____

CITY_____ **STATE**_____ **ZIP**_____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by ground and $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. **Renewal orders: Please include your address label.**

4130/10-95

(Continued from page 37)

When he wrestled Razor Ramon just weeks before his split with Cornette, Yoko looked like a confused man. These days, he's looking more and more angry. And that's bad news for anyone who gets in his way.

ing revenge on Cornette and company?

"I believe Yokozuna needs to re-establish himself as a legitimate WWF headliner as soon as possible," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "Although he and Owen are WWF tag team champs, it has become painfully obvious—at least to Mr. Cornette—that the real strength and energy behind the tandem was supplied by Owen. If you recall, they spent as much time stepping on each other's toes as they did pinning opponents."

"This is a period of self-evaluation for Yokozuna," said noted wrestling psychologist Sidney M. Basil. "If he chooses to let his anger rule his life, he will likely succeed for a while. I'm sure he is very determined to show Mr. Cornette that he made a mistake in dropping him. But I do feel he will be better off in the long run if he puts the past behind him and concerns himself with winning titles again. Getting revenge will not help him."

According to some of Yoko's associates, self-evaluation has left him mentally adrift. He is trying to find the strength and resolve to counter the forces against him and the doubt within him. He might return to his native Samoa for a rejuvenative holiday and to seek the counsel of friends and family.

"Yokozuna can do whatever he wants," Cornette said. "But he will never be the same wrestler he was when he was with me and Mr. Fuji. He's not the smartest guy in the world, you know. I had to do all his thinking for him!"

"As usual, Cornette is nuts," said Tracey Smothers, who feuded with the manager in Smoky Mountain last year. "All Yokozuna has to do is sit on that leech and Cornette's managing days will be over. Don't be surprised if he does it, too. Making a 600-pound man angry is a real dumb thing to do."

It appears Yokozuna's immediate future will hold more singles wrestling, since there doesn't seem to be a wrestler out there who fully complements Yoko. Hakushi and Yoko share an interest in mideastern philosophies, and both speak Japanese, but in the past, Yoko has rejected Hakushi's offers to be his tag team partner.

And remember, Yoko won two WWF World heavyweight titles, and he has proven that he works best alone. And when he does explode, no one will want to be in his path when he goes on a rampage. □

BACK ISSUES OF

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

Complete your collection of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Don't miss out on the excellence that has made PWI the leader in wrestling journalism! Each issue contains a giant FULL-COLOR poster of one of your favorite wrestling stars, plus, beginning with the September 1990 issue, PWI is packed with color in every issue! Quantities are limited, so order today!
[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

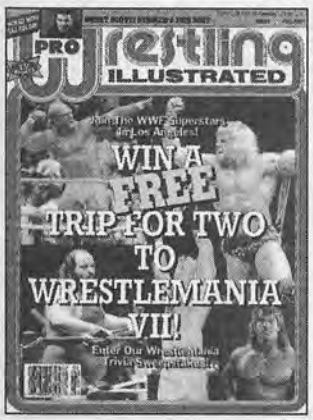
February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage,** Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood,** Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA,** Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania,** Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger**, Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon**, Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steriners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW**, Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War,** Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil,** Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

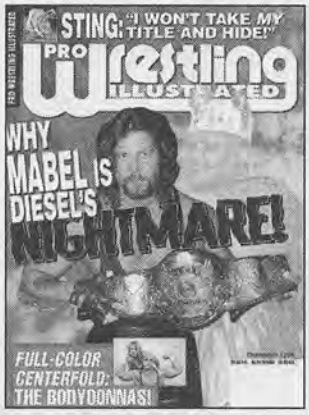
May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel,** Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan,** Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling,** Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon,** ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam,** Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.


STING: "I WON'T TAKE MY TITLE AND HIDE!"
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
WHY MABEL IS DIESEL'S NIGHTMARE!
FULL-COLOR CENTERFOLD: THE BODYDONNAS!

December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel,** Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW,** Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage,** Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

☐ FEB 88	☐ JAN 94	☐ AUG 95
☐ APR 89	☐ MAY 94	☐ OCT 95
☐ DEC 90	☐ JULY 94	☐ NOV 95
☐ JAN 91	☐ AUG 94	☐ DEC 95
☐ FEB 91	☐ NOV 94	☐ JAN 96
☐ MAY 91	☐ WINT 94	☐ FEB 96
☐ JUNE 91	☐ JAN 95	
☐ JAN 93	☐ FEB 95	
☐ FEB 93	☐ APR 95	
☐ APR 93	☐ MAY 95	
☐ NOV 93	☐ JULY 95	

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $3 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt._____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

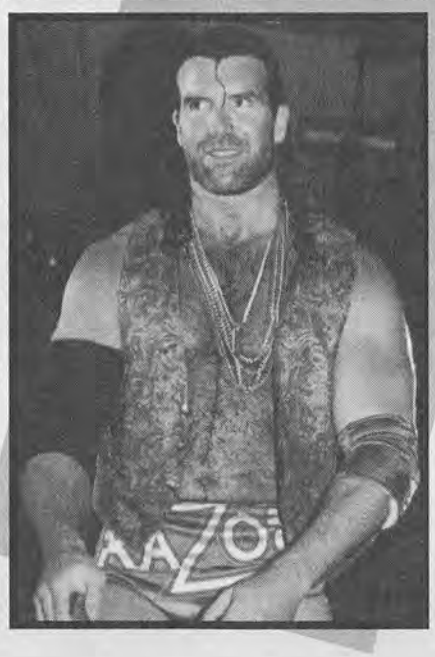
For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. International money order in U.S. funds only.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

4148/11-95

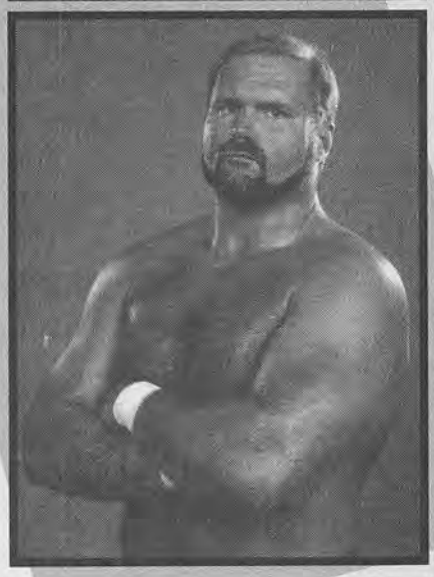
scouting report

RAZOR RAMON



HOMETOWN: Miami, FL
HEIGHT: 6'8"
WEIGHT: 290
YEARS PRO: 11
RATING: No. 9 (*"PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Height makes might. Uses moves that are most effective when executed by a tall man.
•Controlled brawler. Always has a plan, whether action is inside or outside the ring.
•Recuperative power. Shakes off blows that might put others out.
WEAKNESSES:
•Too feud-friendly. Can't focus properly now that he's battling The Kid *and* Goldust at the same time.
•Complacent. Isn't it time he made a run at the WWF *World* title?
•Stagnant. Hasn't added a significant move or hold to his repertoire in years.
OTHER COMMENTS: The only four-time Intercontinental champion in WWF history, Ramon most recently lost the belt to Goldust ... Former AWA World tag team champion (with Curt Hennig) ... Also has experience in WCW and the USWA ... Tough to beat in ladder matches, though Shawn Michaels did it at SummerSlam '95 ... "Bad Guy" has been one of the WWF's most popular athletes since mid-1993.
OUTLOOK FOR 1996: He's still in his prime, so the future should be bright. Ramon is as good a brawler as just about anyone in the WWF, and it would be interesting to see him challenge Vader. However, 1996 should be the year that Ramon finally does make that run at the World title. It's hard to believe he has yet to so as a fan favorite; how much will another I-C title win do for his reputation?

ARN ANDERSON

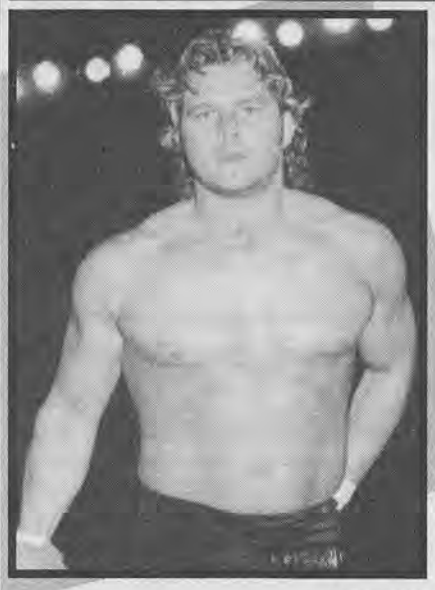


HOMETOWN: Minneapolis, MN
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 249
YEARS PRO: 13
RATING: No. 24 (*"PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Focus. Continues family tradition of targeting one body part of foe and attacking it throughout the match.
•Favorable schedule. As he gets older, is aided greatly by WCW's relatively light schedule.
•Prematch preparation. Gets himself into that superstar athletes' "zone" just before match time.
WEAKNESSES:
•Horsemen obsession. Will do anything for the group, even if it's at the expense of his own career.
•DDT. No longer consistently distributes weight properly while executing finisher.
•Pain in the neck. Still hampered by injuries Erik Watts inflicted upon him with STF.
OTHER COMMENTS: Pulled off one of the sneakiest schemes of the decade last fall when he and Ric Flair pretended to be feuding just so Flair could lure Sting to his side. Both then attacked Sting at Halloween Havoc ... Helped Flair win his 11th world title at Starrcade '95, but his interference also led to Flair losing the WCW belt to Randy Savage ... Has won a total of five NWA/WCW World tag titles, one WWF tag title, and four NWA/WCW TV titles.
OUTLOOK FOR 1996: As long as he's content doing what he's doing, Arn's future shouldn't be hard to predict. He says his primary job is to protect Ric Flair and help him regain the WCW World title. He's good at that. But he's also still a threat to the secondary championships in WCW. Don't be surprised if he wins another TV title or teams with another Horsemen to win the WCW tag title.

HOMETOWN: Minneapolis, MN
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 212
YEARS PRO: 6
RATING: No. 29 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Unbridled enthusiasm. Still genuinely loves what he does and always gives great effort.
•Uncanny leaping ability. Height he gets on kicks is unmatched by anyone in the WWF.
•Corporation protection. Knows Sid and company will be there to watch his back.
WEAKNESSES:
•Ultra-reckless. Devil-may-care attitude has resulted in too many injuries at a young age.
•Unintimidating. Tries to act and be tougher than he is.
•Light on top. Adding just 20 pounds to his upper body would not hurt his agility.
OTHER COMMENTS: Has been one of the WWF's most hated men since he turned against Razor Ramon last year ... Kid made his first big impact in the WWF when, as a relative unknown, he upset the "Bad Guy" at *Monday Night Raw* on May 17, 1993 ... Has held the WWF tag title twice (with Marty Jannetty in 1994, Bob Holly in 1995), but for a total of just eight days ... Former PWA lightweight and tag team champion.
OUTLOOK FOR 1996: Kid's future is so hard to predict because it seems like every time he gets on a roll, he suffers another injury. His partnership with "Psycho" Sid looked promising at first, but they suffered a disappointing loss to Ramon and Marty Jannetty at In Your House V. It appears Kid's going to try to succeed on his own now, but he'll have to beat Ramon if he wants to seriously contend for a WWF title.

THE KID

BRIAN PILLMAN



HOMETOWN: Cincinnati, OH
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 226
YEARS PRO: 8
RATING: No. 61 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Uninhibited. No longer afraid to try any move and is thus comfortable in the ring.
•Continuity. Keeps pace of match fast, never allowing opponent to recover or defend himself.
•Is his own man. Has become so self-assured, no longer allows anyone to influence his behavior.
WEAKNESSES:
•*Too* erratic/unpredictable. Even the other Horsemen don't trust him completely.
•Paunch. Those extra pounds around the middle make him a slower, less effective aerial wrestler.
•Politically incorrect. Controversial, off-the-wall comments make him unpopular with promoters/officials.
OTHER COMMENTS: Former WCW World tag team champ (with Steve Austin) and a two-time former WCW light heavyweight champ ... Briefly played football for the NFL's Bengals ... Has been known as both "Flyin'" Brian and "California" Brian during his WCW tenure ... Once beat Col. Rob Parker in a "loser-must-wear-a-chicken-suit" match ... Many hold him responsible for starting the current problems between the Horsemen and the Dungeon of Doom.
OUTLOOK FOR 1996: Where Pillman is concerned, it is probably best to take things week by week. Arn Anderson recently threatened to toss him right out of the Horsemen, and he has earned that "loose cannon" label that so many in WCW have placed on him. Nevertheless, the new, aggressive Pillman is more dangerous than ever. He must be considered a serious threat to all WCW titles.

HOMETOWN: San Diego, CA
HEIGHT: 5'3"
WEIGHT: 140
YEARS PRO: 4
RATING: No. 18 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Unscoutable. Never uses the same moves in succession and continually invents new ones.
•Driven. Knows his career can be ended in an instant, so wants to accomplish a lot in a hurry.
•Speed, speed, speed. His combination of quickness and athleticism is a sight to see.
WEAKNESSES:
•Vulnerable. Know one knows just how long a 5'3", 140-pounder can last in this sport.
•Matchup problems. Few want to face him, because they have nothing to gain by beating a small man—and everything to lose.
•Shock value. Might never be mentioned together with great *heavyweights* because many see him as an oddity.
OTHER COMMENTS: Masked Mexican standout dropped out of school in 11th grade to pursue a career in wrestling ... Originally took the name *Colibri* (meaning hummingbird), but changed it to Rey Misterio Jr. to honor his uncle, Rey Sr. ... Took his AAA rivalry with Psicosis to ECW last year ... Has won many titles in Mexico ... Recently formed an interesting duo in ECW: He teamed with 7' 911 for one match, and they beat The Eliminators.
OUTLOOK FOR 1996: ECW fans (not to mention those in Mexico) absolutely love him, so he should continue to wrestle there into 1996 and perhaps beyond. He has talked about going after the ECW TV title, in fact, but you just have to wonder how long he will last in this sport. If he does somehow remain healthy, he could have an amazing career. Somehow, though, we don't see a stint in the WWF or WCW in his future.

REY MISTERIO JR.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10

The Undertaker

TOP 10

1 HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
(5) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

2 BRET HART
235, Calgary, Alberta
(1) WWF World champion

3 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
(7) WCW World champion

4 RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL
(2) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

5 SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

6 THE GIANT
430, parts unknown
(–) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

7 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

8 DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
(8) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

9 GOLDUST
254, Austin, TX
(4) WWF Intercontinental champion

10 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(10) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

TAG TEAMS

1 LEX LUGER & STING
Combined weight: 525 pounds
(2) WCW World tag team champions

2 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions

3 THE ROAD WARRIORS
Combined weight: 560 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

4 HARLEM HEAT
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(3) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

5 SKIP & ZIP
Combined weight: 446 pounds
(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

6 PG-13
Combined weight: 471 pounds
(7) USWA tag team champions

7 J.J. ARMSTRONG & TRACEY SMOTHERS
Combined weight: 467 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

8 THE ELIMINATORS
Combined weight: 459 pounds
(–) ECW tag team champions

9 THE NASTY BOYS
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(–) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

10 PUBLIC ENEMY
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(5) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

WCW
World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
(2) 243, Minneapolis, MN

1—KONNAN
(–) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
2—HULK HOGAN
(3) 275, Venice Beach, CA
3—RANDY SAVAGE
(C) 237, Sarasota, FL
4—THE GIANT
(7) 430, parts unknown
5—STING
(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA
6—JOHNNY B. BADD
(6) 235, Macon, GA
7—LEX LUGER
(5) 265, Chicago, IL
8—ARN ANDERSON
(9) 249, Minneapolis, MN
9—ONE MAN GANG
(1) 468, Chicago, IL
10—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE
(10) 260, Tampa, FL

WWF
World Champion:
BRET HART
(C) 235, Calgary, Alberta

1—GOLDUST
(1) 254, Austin, TX
2—SHAWN MICHAELS
(5) 234, San Antonio, TX
3—THE UNDERTAKER
(2) 328, parts unknown
4—DIESEL
(3) 356, Las Vegas, NV
5—AHMED JOHNSON
(7) 255, Pearl River, MS
6—JEFF JARRETT
(6) 230, Nashville, TN
7—TATANKA
(–) 250, Pembroke, NC
8—RAZOR RAMON
(4) 290, Miami, FL
9—STEVE AUSTIN
(–) 241, Dallas, TX
10—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
(9) 279, Greenwich, CT

USWA
USWA Champion:
JEFF JARRETT
(C) 230, Nashville, TN

1—TOMMY RICH
(1) 248, Hendersonville, TN
2—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(2) 230, Memphis, TN
3—JERRY LAWLER
(3) 234, Memphis, TN
4—SPELLBINDER
(10) 273, parts unknown
5—DOUG GILBERT
(7) 241, Lexington, TN
6—J.J. ARMSTRONG
(8) 240, Marietta, GA
7—TEX SLAZENGER
(5) 253, Austin, TX
8—TRACEY SMOTHERS
(6) 227, Atlanta, GA
9—BRANDON BAXTER
(–) 204, Dallas, TX
10—KOKO B. WARE
(4) 229, Union City, TN

ECW
ECW Champion:
RAVEN
(3) 235, Short Hills, NJ

1—2 COLD SCORPIO
(1) 222, Denver, CO
2—THE SANDMAN
(C) 244, Philadelphia, PA
3—TOMMY DREAMER
(2) 245, Yonkers, NY
4—SABU
(4) 220, Bombay
5—TAZ
(5) 221, Massapequa, NY
6—CACTUS JACK
(–) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
7—STEVIE RICHARDS
(8) 227, Philadelphia, PA
8—REY MISTERIO JR.
(7) 140, San Diego, CA
9—MIKEY WHIPWRECK
(6) 187, New York, NY
10—MR. HUGHES
(–) 308, Kansas City, KS

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended February 16, 1996

MOST POPULAR

1 SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2 HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

3 BRET HART
235, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

4 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

5 RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

6 RAZOR RAMON
290, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

7 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

8 AHMED JOHNSON
255, Pearl River, MS
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

9 DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

10 JOHNNY B. BADD
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

2 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

3 GOLDUST
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

4 BRIAN PILLMAN
226, Cincinnati, OH
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

5 THE GIANT
430, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

6 JEFF JARRETT
230, Nashville, TN
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

7 JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

8 DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

9 LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: unrated

10 THE KID
212, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—BRET HART.....70 points
2—HULK HOGAN.....66 points
3—DIESEL.....62 points
4—RANDY SAVAGE.....62 points
5—STING.....57 points

TAG TEAMS

1—HARLEM HEAT.....77 points
2—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS.....68 points
3—OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA.....64 points
4—PG-13.....41 points
5—THE NASTY BOYS.....31 points

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(C) 231, Yokohama, Japan

1—JUSHIN LIGER
(2) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
2—THE GREAT MUTA
(1) 245, Tokyo, Japan
3—KOJI KANEMOTO
(6) 205, Tokyo, Japan
4—KENSUKE SASAKI
(3) 233, Tokyo, Japan
5—RIKI CHOSHU
(5) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan
6—ANTONIO INOKI
(4) 240, Tokyo, Japan
7—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(7) 287, Gisu, Japan
8—HIROSHI HASE
(9) 225, Tokyo, Japan
9—HIRYOSHI TENZAN
(10) 270, Tokyo, Japan
10—SCOTT NORTON
(-) 360, Minneapolis, MN

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
MITSUHARU MISAWA
(C) 228, Saitama, Japan

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
2—KENTA KOBASHI
(4) 261, Tokyo, Japan
3—JOHNNY ACE
(5) 250, San Bernadino, CA
4—AKIRA TAUE
(2) 265, Tokyo, Japan
5—STAN HANSEN
(8) 322, Borger, TX
6—GARY ALBRIGHT
(-) 343, Billings, MT
7—THE PATRIOT
(6) 251, Columbia, SC
8—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(3) 202, Fichigi, Japan
9—DAN KROFFAT
(9) 232, Montreal, Quebec
10—SHOHEI BABA
(7) 283, Niigata, Japan

AAA: AAA Champion—Perro Aguayo; **1**—Cien Caras; **2**—Rey Misterio Jr.; **3**—Psicosis; **4**—Jerry Estrada; **5**—Heavy Metal; **6**—La Parka; **7**—Octagon; **8**—Winners; **9**—El Hijo Del Santo; **10**—Zibernetico.

ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; **1**—Mr. Hughes; **2**—Johnny Gunn; **3**—Virgil; **4**—Johnny Graham; **5**—Rick Martel; **6**—Tito Santana; **7**—Mikey Whipwreck; **8**—Glen Osbourne; **9**—Ubas; **10**—Lord Zoltan.

MTW: MTW Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Bruiser Bedlam; **2**—D-Lo Brown; **3**—Rock Stevens; **4**—Chris Carter; **5**—Machine Gun Kelly; **6**—Bobo Brazil Jr.; **7**—J.T. Lightning; **8**—Johnny Paradise; **9**—Brad Armstrong; **10**—Ray Roberts.

PCW: PCW Champion—Akita Kaos; **1**—Skip; **2**—Ray Odyssey; **3**—Reckless Youth; **4**—D-Lo Brown; **5**—The Midnight Rocker; **6**—Mark Mest; **7**—Boo Bradley; **8**—Johnny Graham; **9**—Bobby Piper; **10**—Jimmy Deo.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Kamikaze Kid; **2**—J.B. Trask; **3**—Horace the Psychopath; **4**—Lenny Lane; **5**—Dan Jesser; **6**—The Mangler; **7**—Nailz; **8**—Charlie Norris; **9**—Blacktop Bully; **10**—Jerry Lynn.

PWF: PWF Champion—Rick Morton; **1**—Terry Austin; **2**—Italian Stallion; **3**—George South; **4**—Flaming Youth; **5**—Austin Steele; **6**—Star Ryder; **7**—Russian Assassin II; **8**—Cruel Connection II; **9**—Tyrone Knox; **10**—Chris Hamrick.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Talkin' top 10. A few additions to our overall top 10 this month. Like him or not, **Goldust** makes it by virtue of his victory over **Razor Ramon** for the WWF Intercontinental title at the Royal Rumble. He needed help from The Kid, but one fact remains: He did find a way to win the WWF's second most prestigious championship.

Randy Savage climbs higher in the top 10, thanks to his victory over **Ric Flair** for his second WCW World title. Savage's days in the top 10 could be numbered, though. He has yet to find a way to beat Lex Luger in WCW and has been slowed by injuries lately.

What can one match do for you? A lot if it's the WWF Royal Rumble and you win it. **Shawn Michaels** had been out of action for more than two months before he came back and won the 1996 Rumble in spectacular fashion. That victory alone earned him a spot in the overall top 10. And, unlike Savage, we expect Michaels to remain in the top 10 for a while. Look for him to "fulfill his destiny," as he puts it, and finally win the WWF World title at WrestleMania XII.

One guy who you might think deserves a spot in the top 10 is **Big Van Vader**. Sure, he did look absolutely dominant in his first few WWF appearances. But we have left his name out of the WWF top 10, too, for as of press time, Vader was still suspended because of his despicable attack on interim WWF President **Gorilla Monsoon** (**"Rowdy" Roddy Piper** has since taken over that position) on January 22. He does, however, have a spot in our Most Hated rankings ... and probably will for many months to come.

Big Van Vader

Tag team bonanza in Philly? In this space last month, we again talked about how tag team wrestling in general is in pretty bad shape right now, especially in the WWF. Okay, so things in WCW were looking up with the addition of **The Road Warriors** and **Public Enemy** to the tag team roster, but can't the WWF do better than **The Smokin' Gunns**, **Skip** and **Zip**, and now **Henry** and **Phineas I. Godwinn**?

Maybe the place to look for the great tag teams of tomorrow is ECW. WCW did when it signed PE this winter. But just look at the tag team ratings from the past few months and you'll see that ECW has contributed a number of duos to the list. In addition to Public Enemy, **The Sandman** and **2 Cold Scorpio**, **Cactus Jack** and **Mikey Whipwreck**, **Raven** and **Stevie Richards**, **The Gangstas**, and **The Pit Bulls** have all cracked the top 10 because of their accomplishments in that Philadelphia-based promotion.

The Sandman

Granted, Sandman and Scorpio, Raven (the new ECW *heavyweight* champion) and Richards, and Cactus and Mikey aren't likely to stay together over the long haul, but The Gangstas and The Pit Bulls are both very violent and very talented teams. Both could make major impacts on wrestling in the next five years and beyond.

Also making an impact in the tag team division in ECW are **The Eliminators** and **The Bad Crew**. The Eliminators (**John Kronus** and **Perry Saturn**), who are managed by **Jason** in ECW, briefly held the USWA tag team title in 1994 and gained a lot of valuable experience in Japan over the past few years. **Rick Steiner**, who along with brother **Scott** has wrestled them in ECW, spoke very highly of The Eliminators in a story that ran in the May 1996 issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

The Bad Crew—**Dog** and **Roze**—have won several tag team titles in promotions up and down the East Coast. Along with manager **Damien Kane**, they have fit in well in ECW. Look for both of these teams to crack our ratings soon. And if promoters in WCW or the WWF are looking for some excellent young teams, perhaps they should take in an ECW card one of these days.

That's all for now! If you have any thoughts or questions relating to our ratings or any of the issues we have raised here, please let us know. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

RF Video presents...

THE OFFICIAL **SABU** VIDEO SERIES

You have read about this athlete for years, now it is time for you to witness this homicidal, suicidal, genocidal, death-defying superstar in the safety of your homes through R.F. Video.....

$20.00 **"SMASHING TABLES" APPROX. 2 HRS.**

1. Sabu vs. Terry Funk 5-15-94 ORIENTAL DEATH MATCH; 2. Sabu vs. Al Snow 5-28-94; 3. Sabu vs. Al Snow 7-23-94 (20-FOOT HIGH LADDER MATCH - TALLEST IN HISTORY); 4. Sabu vs. Crippler Chris Benoit 8-5-94; 5. Sabu vs. Tazmaniac 9-16-94 MICHIGAN DEATH MATCH

$20.00 **"MOONSAULT MAYHEM"**

1. Sabu vs. Lightning Kid (MUCH TALKED ABOUT BLOODBATH FROM GRAND SLAM 1); 2. Sabu vs. Jerry "Mr. JL" Lynn (GRAND SLAM 2); 3. Sabu vs. Chris Candito; 4. Sabu vs. Chris Candito (STEEL CAGE REMATCH); 5. Sabu vs. Crippler Chris Benoit (THEIR FIRST MEETING FROM NEW JERSEY)

$20.00 **"SABU: THE ARABIAN EXPRESS"**

1. Sabu vs. Ray Oddessy (MADNESS FROM ATLANTIC CITY); 2. Sabu vs. Al Snow 1-28-94; 3. Sabu vs. Al Snow 4-8-94; 4. Sabu vs. Konnan (THE SUPERSTAR FROM MEXICO); 5. Sabu vs. Robbie Van Dam; 6. Sabu vs. 2 Cold Scorpio (THE RING ACTUALLY COLLAPSES DURING THIS MATCH!); 7. Sabu vs. Taz (MAYHEM FROM MARYLAND)

$20.00 **"SABU ACROSS AMERICA"**

1. Sabu vs. Terry Funk 4-9-94 (MICHIGAN); 2. Sabu vs. Al Snow 4-2-94 (OHIO); 3. Sabu vs. Ultraman 1-15-95 (CALIFORNIA); 4. Sabu vs. Al Snow 9-11-94 (CALIFORNIA – WATCH AS TERRY FUNK INTERFERES AND DESTROYS THE WHOLE BUILDING!); 5. Sabu vs. Bobby Bradley; 6. Sabu vs. Cactus Jack (WILD BLOODBATH FROM MICHIGAN)

Send checks or money order for $20.00 + $3.00 S & H per tape to:
RF Video
P.O. Box 797
Langhorne, PA 19047
(215) 752-4279

*Each tape is approximately 2 hours in length at a price of only $20 per tape. Each tape has their own original matches. No two matches are the same in this collection! These tapes are the most complete collection of the greatest matches in the career of the already legendary Sabu. Witness the daredevil flips to the concrete, the breaking of bones while smashing tables, and the bloodiest hardcore action seen in the states. It is the **Sabu Video Collection!!!***

********** **SEND $12.00 FOR 500 PAGE CATALOG** **********

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. PA residents add 6% sales tax. International money orders in U.S. funds only. All tapes are VHS and carry a 100% money back guarantee against defects only. If tape is defective, please return it with a note specifying the defect.

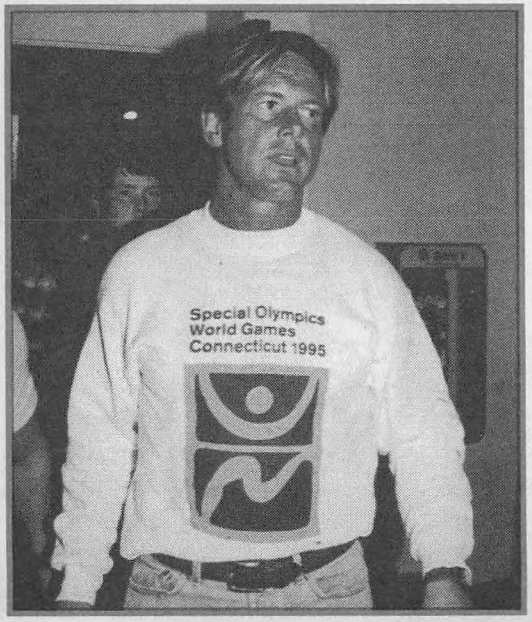
VOLUME XVII, No. 5

MAY 1996

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

PIPER IS UNPOPULAR WWF PRESIDENT

Critics Say He's Doing A Lousy Job



Roddy Piper was very popular as a wrestler for many years, but he isn't winning over many people with decisions he has made as acting WWF president.

By MATT BROCK

BANGALORE, INDIA—Less than a month into his tenure as acting president of the WWF, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper was already taking a lot of heat from some top WWF wrestlers and managers over a controversial decision he made.

The move that outraged so many people in the WWF was his decision to grant Tatanka a shot at the WWF World title on a card here February 3. Tatanka returned to the WWF at the 1996 Royal Rumble after taking several months off from wrestling and hadn't done anything to earn a title shot.

"Nothing against Tatanka … or anyone in Ted DiBiase's Corporation," said manager Jim Cornette, "but he should be all the way at the back of the line for title shots. All my men—Davey Boy Smith, Owen Hart, and Vader—shoulda got shots at Bret Hart before him. I just wonder how much Bret's paying this Piper to feed him guys he knows he can handle. Maybe I ought to have my own personal attorney, Mr. Clarence Mason, look into this matter."

Numerous WWF fan favorites echoed Cornette's sentiments.

"I think Piper was a great wrestler," said one, "but I don't think he can be an objective president. He just does what's best for himself—all the time."

Piper himself was unavailable for comment, but a WWF spokesman said that Piper was completely within his authority to sanction the Hart-Tatanka match and wouldn't have to explain why he did it.

Pillman On Outs With Horsemen?

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

CANTON, OH—Brian Pillman seems to like the fact that practically everyone in WCW is labeling him a "loose cannon" and the fact that almost no one is willing to trust him, but sources say he has come close to losing his position as one of The Four Horsemen.

Arn Anderson was so furious with Pillman during the January 29 broadcast of *WCW Monday Nitro* that he was about to take off his own leather belt and whip Pillman in the middle of the ring before Hugh Morris of the Dungeon of Doom attacked "The Enforcer" from behind. Pillman, meanwhile, moved outside the ring, where he was whipped by Kevin Sullivan, who had grabbed Arn's belt.

Sources say "Flyin'" Brian explained to Arn in the locker room afterward that he thought Arn could handle himself against Morris without help, but that Arn wasn't convinced and told him "one more screwup and you're gone!"

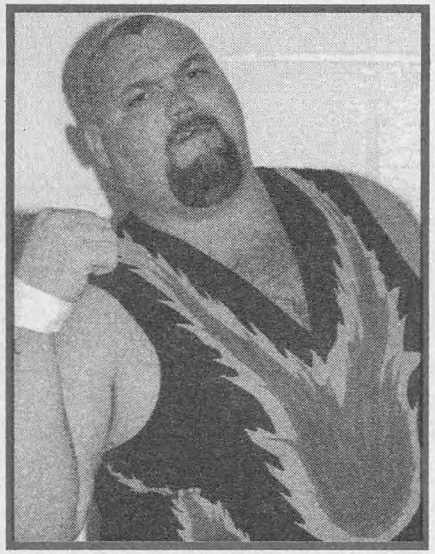
Neither Anderson nor Pillman would comment on the situation.

Bigelow Gets "Extreme" In N.Y.

By LIZ HUNTER

REGO PARK, NY—The bizarre feud between ECW Commissioner Tod Gordon and referee-turned-rulebreaking manager Bill Alfonso got even more bizarre on February 3 shortly after Alfonso and Taz began a postmatch attack on Taz' opponent for the night, The Shark Attack Kid.

Gordon was no match for his two rivals when he hit the ring to stop the attack, and he took quite a beating. But just when it appeared no one would come to Gordon's aid, Bam Bam Bigelow, who was watching the action from the dressing room area, thrilled the Queens fans by charging to ringside and clearing the ring. The "Beast From The East," who had been competing only occasionally in the WWF and Northeastern independents recently, said he hoped to start competing in ECW soon.



Bam Bam Bigelow is looking to get a career in ECW started. He saved ECW Commissioner from a beating by Taz and Bill Alfonso back in February.

"Bam Bam Bigelow is tougher than anyone in ECW," he said. "I never liked referees, and I don't like Alfonso. If I have to go through Taz to get to him, that's fine!"

Kamala Lends Hand In USWA

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

MEMPHIS, TN—WCW's Dungeon of Doom wasn't the stable for him, so Kamala, who took a few months off from wrestling after leaving the Dungeon, decided to help out a few fan favorites in their USWA war.

Brian Christopher and PG-13—Wolfie D and J.C. Ice—had been having all sorts of problems with rulebreakers such as The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Jesse James Armstrong, Tracey Smothers, and Doug Gilbert, so they decided they needed to go outside the USWA to find help. They found that help in the form of Uganda native Kamala, who was USWA champion in 1993.

Kamala helped PG-13 and Christopher overpower Smothers, Armstrong, and Robert Gibson in a marathon match on January 24, and Christopher said they might seek Kamala's help again.

"The big man isn't stickin' around here full-time," he said, "but let's just say I know where to find him if things get out of control again!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

EPIPHANIE, QUEBEC

Every fan has heard of falls-count-anywhere matches, but Northern Championship Wrestling promoters sanctioned a "falls-count-anywhere-*in-Epiphanie*" match between Black Bear and Crazy Eddie recently. Crazy Eddie, who was later unmasked as The Rebel, lost when he was pinned in a snow pile.

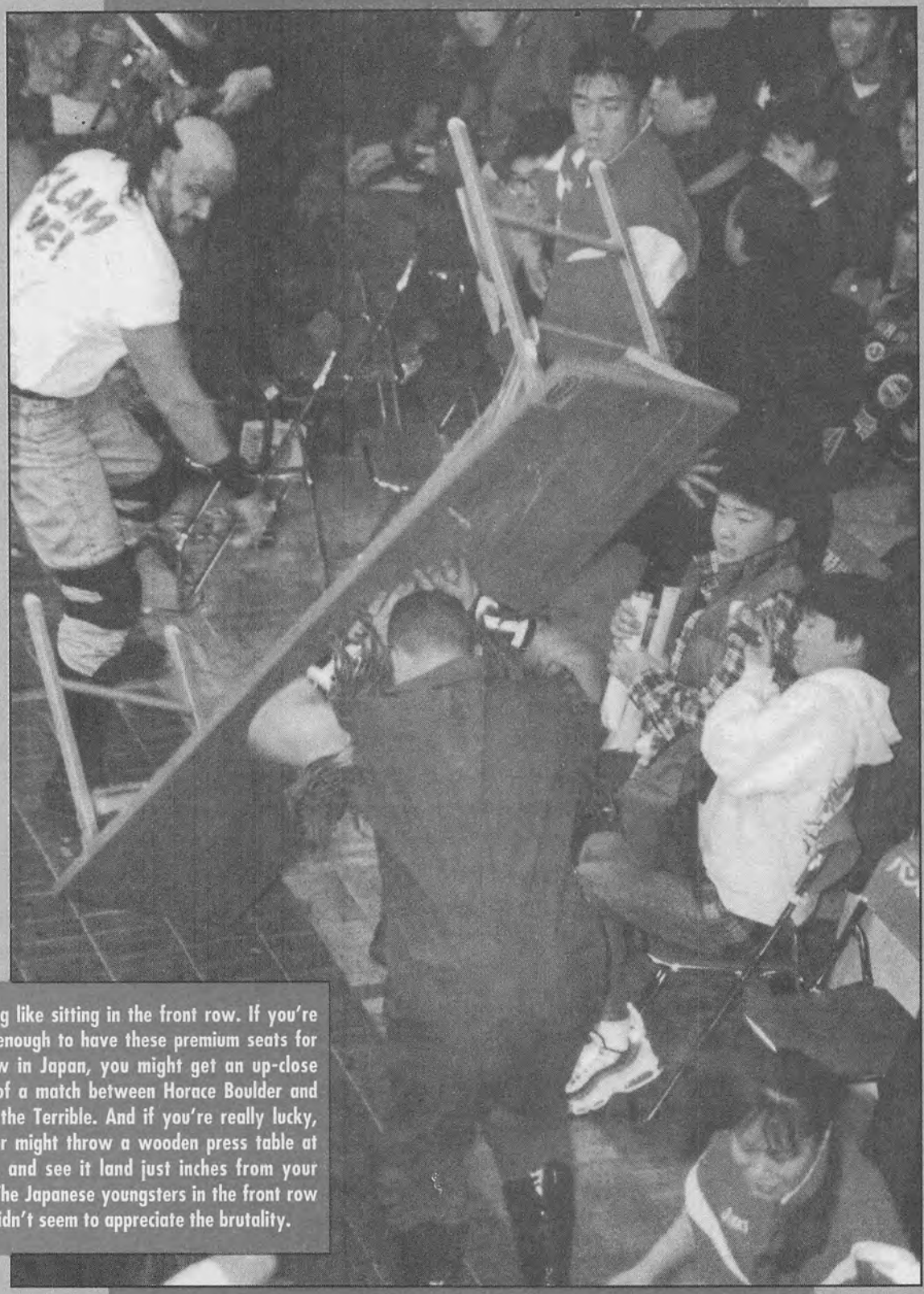
CAMPBELL RIVER, BC

The excitement of ECW has caught on north of the border. There is now a promotion based in British Columbia that goes by the name of Extreme *Canadian* Championship Wrestling. Among the regular competitors are NATO Peacekeeper, Loverboy Johnny, Michelle Starr, and Crybaby Huey. Not exactly the names of hardcore wrestlers.

TOKYO, JAPAN

Gary Albright and Stan Hansen figure to have many teams in Japan after them now that they are the PWF and All-Japan International tag team champions. One man who is reportedly looking for a partner is The Patriot, a fine tag team wrestler who had some exciting one-on-one matches with Hansen early in 1996.

HOT SHOT



Nothing like sitting in the front row. If you're lucky enough to have these premium seats for a show in Japan, you might get an up-close view of a match between Horace Boulder and Jason the Terrible. And if you're really lucky, Boulder might throw a wooden press table at Jason, and see it land just inches from your face. The Japanese youngsters in the front row here didn't seem to appreciate the brutality.

Photo by Ed Russino

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO THE WORLD'S LEADING WRESTLING MAGAZINE

THE LEADER OF THE PACK!

For over a decade, **PWI** has been bringing the wrestling arena (and the locker room) to the fans. No other wrestling magazine that covers the entire spectrum of the sport can boast of the same quality writers, editors, and photographers. **PWI** is acknowledged worldwide as the best!

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES!

PWI's award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" . . . Eddie Ellner's lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" . . . An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars . . . Extensive "Ratings" . . . "Scouting Reports" . . . "Time Capsules" . . . And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the spectacular 100-page year-end issue, priced at $3.95 on the newsstand (if you can find it!) and any other specials we produce throughout the year!

TWO WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE!

- Order a 13-issue subscription to **PWI** and save 20% off the regular newsstand price!
- Order a 26-issue subscription to **PWI** and receive a whopping 25% savings off the regular newsstand rate!

Don't miss a single issue! Subscribe today!

10 WAYS TO REVITALIZE THE WWF
FULL-COLOR CENTERFOLD: BAM BAM BIGELOW
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
"I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE"
COLLECTOR'S EDITION! SPECIAL ISSUE!
Bonus Section!
THE 1995 PWI POLL
WRESTLING'S 50 HOTTEST QUESTIONS ANSWERED
SAVAGE VS. HOGAN: THE FEUD WILL RETURN!
RAMON STILL CUTS IT AS A BAD GUY!

☑ **Yes**, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

☐ I am enclosing $32.80 for a one-year (13-issue) subscription—a 20% savings off the newsstand price!

☐ I am enclosing $61.50 for a two-year (26-issue) subscription—a full 25% savings off the newsstand rate!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #: _____

Signature: _____ Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $43.20 for 13 issues ($65.30 airmail); $82.30 for 26 issues ($126.50 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

3807/06-95

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

HOTLINE

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes
Upcoming events
Up-to-date results from around the world
Title changes and transactions
Pay-per-view reports
Wrestler of the week

Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712

☎ **This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.**

*Cost per minute in the United States and Canada is $1.99 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times, incl. VAT.
Kids, get your parents' permission.
BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712

4112/08-95